

YEARBOOK
of the
HEATHER SOCIETY



1997

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THE HEATHER SOCIETY

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Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde

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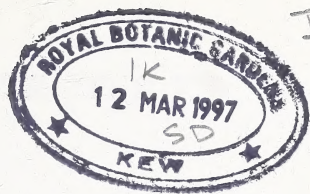
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Heathers at Col. Jim Thompson's garden, Manchester, California
[photo. by permission of *House beautiful*]



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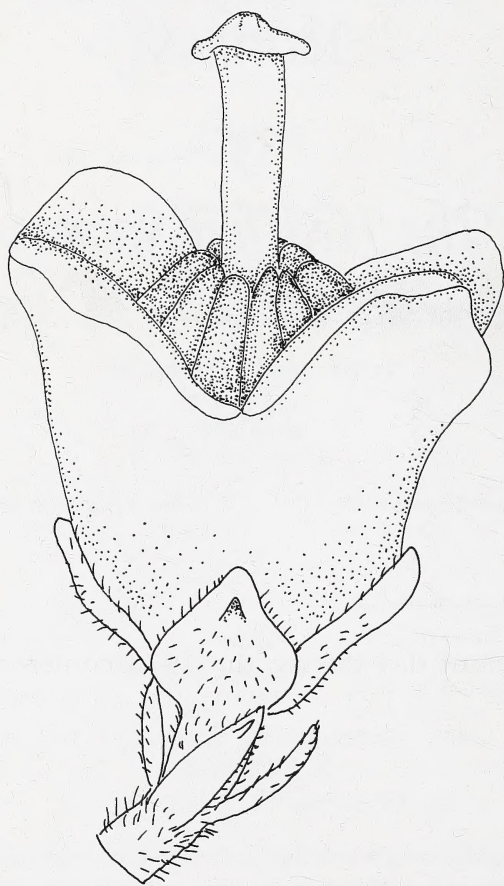
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Flower of *Erica oakesiorum* [Inge Oliver]

Major-General P. G. Turpin C.B., O.B.E. (1911-1996)



Fig. 1. Major-General Turpin admiring a plant of *Erica x darleyensis* at a heather competition in the RHS Halls, Westminster. [Mrs C. Turpin].

It was a pregnant day during the 1973 conference, based on Dartington, when Pat, then a new member, lent forward in the bus to introduce himself to me. I had no idea then how eminent he was, but he was obviously a lively and friendly personality. Even so, who would have realised then the enormous influence he would wield over our Society for the next 15 years, above all during his 14 years as Chairman. He ruled Council with a firm and able hand and a clear mind, but he was also always courteous and friendly. We were lucky to have had his great ability given to our wellbeing for so long. Moreover he got to know heathers very well and had strong views on their names, and on what not to name. He took excellent photographs and gave informative slide shows on heathers and heather gardens. He became the recognised authority on the heathers of The Lizard.

The only heather that Pat found and named was *Calluna vulgaris* 'Cottswood Gold', a seedling in his garden in 1974-1975, a good yellow-foliaged plant. It is at Wisley, of course, but still too rare in the trade. The story of *C. vulgaris* 'White Lawn' is told in *Bulletin* **5** (10; Spring 1997), a very distinctive cultivar which Pat was instrumental in naming in 1977, before its full history was known. He himself is commemorated in *Erica x stuartii* 'Pat Turpin', the original plant of which was presented to him at the Bury St Edmunds conference in 1991, to mark his 80th birthday. *E. x watsonii* 'Cherry Turpin' was lit on by her at Silverwell Moor, Cornwall, on 26 July 1978, and most suitably dowered by her husband with her name. Unfortunately both these are sterile hybrids or we might have had interesting outcomes.

Pat contributed to all our *Yearbooks* from 1975 to 1992; the following bibliography gives his main contributions. In addition, his annual messages from the Chairman contain wise thoughts, and he wrote eight book reviews.

He did sterling service for the standing of our Society by his regular entries for the RHS heather competitions, so tellingly arranged by Cherry. Pamela Lee tells me that he competed in some 35 shows between 1978 and 1989, gaining no fewer than 91 firsts and numerous seconds and thirds, an unrivalled record, so far. Mention should also be made of his important part in the early planning of the formation of the heather collection at Wisley, where he was well known; and he had a life-long interest in natural history, notably lepidoptera, of which he presented a fine collection to the Haslemere Museum.

In this *Yearbook* we naturally dwell chiefly on what Pat did for heathers. He joined us when he was 62 after a very outstanding career in the army. This was well set out in his obituary in *The Times* (23 September 1996), in *The Independent* (30 September 1996) and *Daily Telegraph* (19 November 1996).

Patrick George Turpin was born in Torquay on 17 April 1911 and died on 14 September 1996. He was the third son of the Revd J. J. Turpin, vicar of Misterton, Somerset. He was sent to Haileybury and went from there as a Senior Classical Scholar to Exeter College, Oxford. Thence, in 1934, he was commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps. His great abilities enabled him to rise to Major-General in 1960. He had served in Egypt, the Western Desert, Italy, Germany

and Malaya (whence his affection for the Gurkhas). He was a fine all-round athlete and games player, above all at tennis. He was for 15 years Governor of the Royal School, Bath. His well-researched book *The turn of the wheel, the history of the Royal Army Service Corps 1919-1939* was published in 1988.

We were indeed fortunate to have had so able and likeable a man taking a major role in our affairs for so long. Cherry, an army officer's daughter, whom he married in 1947, was his invaluable companion. To her and their children, Richard and Annabel, we extend our sincere sympathy, and admiration and gratitude for all that Pat did for us.

David McClintock

President, The Heather Society

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Some observations on *Erica scoparia* subspecies cultivated in Surrey.

ALLEN HALL

18 Albury Avenue, CHEAM, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 7JT.

In 1995, and again this year (1996), *Erica scoparia* forced itself on my attention with eye-catching displays of flowers. In 1995, some *E. scoparia* subsp. *platycodon* raised in my glasshouse came into flower for the first time and at first I could not believe that I was seeing racemes of *E. scoparia* standing out from the cape heaths which surrounded them. The flowers were striking rather than beautiful. This year it was the turn of *E. scoparia* subsp. *azorica* to catch my eye. I do not believe that many heather enthusiasts grow, or indeed ever see, *E. scoparia* in flower and so I took close-up photographs of flowers of the three subspecies of *E. scoparia* that I grow – the common, main-land subspecies (*E. scoparia* subsp. *scoparia*) and two of the three subspecies from the Atlantic Islands.

Erica scoparia has been described in the *Yearbook* from time to time by David McClintock and references are given to those of his articles most relevant to these notes.

E. scoparia* subsp. *scoparia

I collected a typical specimen of *Erica scoparia* subsp. *scoparia* at Bordeaux about 14 years ago. It has now reached a height of 6 feet (2 metres) in my garden. It grows in a sunny, sheltered spot in soil which contains many small lumps of chalk and where *Calluna vulgaris* and other calcifuge plants are unhappy. This tends to bear out a report by A. W. Jones in the 1977 *Yearbook*.

The plant did not flower for four or five years but has been prolific since then, flowering in May and June. I examined the flowers in 1989 and they appeared much as described by Underhill in *Heaths and heathers* (1990). However, I notice that the lobes of the flowers on the now more mature plant turn outwards giving the flower a bell-like (campanulate) appearance (Fig. 1).

I summarize my observations in 1996 in Table 1.



Fig 1. *Erica scoparia* subsp. *scoparia* [A. Hall].

inflorescence	clusters of 1, 2 or 3 flowers in leaf axils
pedicel	3mm long, with 3 bracteoles about one third of the way along
calyx	sepals green, ovate, 1.5mm
corolla	greenish white, 2 - 2.5mm, deeply divided
corolla lobes	acute, 1 - 1.5mm
ovary	ovate, 1mm, glabrous
style	2mm
stigma	exserted, peltate, slightly concave, red
anthers	brown, no appendages

Table 1. *Erica scoparia* subsp. *scoparia*; origin: Bordeaux, France.

David McClintock in the 1990 *Yearbook* noted that Schacht (1859) reported that *E. scoparia* was an esteemed source of honey. I have yet to see a bee on the flowers of my plant, and while my observations may be deficient, it is certain that bees do not throng it. On the other hand a mere touch of a flowering branch sends clouds of pollen flying. Given the large, exserted stigma, the generous production of pollen, and the small undistinguished corolla, I agree with Oliver & Oliver (1994) in considering that *E. scoparia* is wind-pollinated.

In late August 1989, I examined more than 200 seed pods using a microscope. Most seeds had not filled out but I found fertile seeds (which later germinated) at the rate of about one seed per ten pods. Germination occurred four weeks after sowing.

E. scoparia* subsp. *platycodon

Lionel Woolner wrote enthusiastically about *Erica scoparia* subsp. *platycodon* in the 1974 *Yearbook*. David Small kindly gave me two plants about five years ago, which, he informs me, descended from plants he collected in the Mercedes Mountains on Tenerife. The subspecies is easy to propagate and I have since given a number of plants to members of the Southern Group. In April 1995, two plants of mine, which were over-wintered in pots in the glasshouse, flowered for the first time. Unfortunately these plants were all but lost to me during our long absence in Australia last autumn, regardless of the care bestowed on them by my neighbour. However, I also have two plants growing outside in my sheltered Surrey garden (acid soil, pH 6–6.5 in this case). These have struggled through the winters, particularly the last one (1995–1996) which was long and cold in this part of the country but spared the very low temperatures experienced further north. A few sparse and seemingly imperfect flowers appeared briefly on these plants in late May 1996.

The photograph (Fig. 2) was taken in April 1995 and is of a flower grown under glass. Therefore the colour of its corolla may not be truly representative. I noted that flowers this year on the outdoor plants had dark pink corollas, much as described McClintock (1989).

E. scoparia* subsp. *azorica

Dr John Griffiths generously gave me some cuttings of *E. scoparia* subsp. *azorica* in September 1993. I believe that this clone was collected by Don Richards and David McClintock on Pico, on the island of Faial in the Azores in 1974 (Richards 1976). From this material, I propagated a number of plants. One of these grows outside in my garden but it is still quite small and has not yet flowered. To my delight a plant I keep in a pot and over-winter in the glasshouse flowered for the first time in May 1996 and I photographed one of the flowers (Fig. 3).



Fig 2. *Erica scoparia* subsp. *platycodon* [A. Hall].

My observations on the flowers of this plant are summarized in Table 2. The unusual stigma gives the flower a most distinctive appearance.

Some large specimens of, around 6 feet high, are in the garden of David McClintock and these were seen by members of the Southern Group during our visit to Bracken Hill in March 1996 (the plants were not in flower of course). I have given some of my plants to members of the Southern Group and I would appreciate their observations on the plants some time.

E. scoparia* subsp. *maderincola

Erica scoparia subsp. *maderincola* was described by David McClintock in the 1989 *Yearbook*. I have not seen a specimen yet.



Fig 3. *Erica scoparia* subsp. *azorica* [A. Hall].

inflorescence	clusters of 1, 2 or 3 flowers growing from leaf axils
pedicel	2mm, smooth, 3 bracteoles growing about half-way along
calyx	sepals ovate, green, 1mm
corolla	1.5mm, deeply divided, but not as deeply as subsp. <i>scoparia</i> , greenish white with some pink pigmentation, but this glasshouse plant may not represent the colour of plants grown outside
corolla lobes	acute, 1mm
ovary	ovate, glabrous
style	1.5mm, with exserted stigma
stigma	deep purple, long, toadstool-like
anthers	brown, no appendages

Table 2. *Erica scoparia* subsp. *azorica*; origin: Pico, Faial, Azores

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TECHNICAL NOTE ON CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS

To get the best close-up possible with my equipment, I magnify an image until it fills a 35 mm frame of my single lens reflex camera. In practice I obtained a linear magnification of x7 for Fig. 1, and of x9 for the others. Although expensive, specialised macro lens are on the market, I use an inexpensive camera, bellow and a Tamron 28 mm wide-angle lens. The lens is reversed to increase possible magnification and to reduce distortion of the image. The lens can be stopped down to f32, but I find that f22 normally allows enough depth of field and the heather flower therefore requires one stop less of light – an important consideration. I have a home-made rig to hold the camera steady and provide facilities for bringing the flower into view and focus. I use two electronic flash guns to illuminate the flower and a third one if I wish to give the picture a light background. It is sometimes important to do this to avoid dark shadows on an image.

For most close-up work I like Kodachrome ISO 64 film but for magnification of six and above I use Fujichrome ISO 400. This faster film gives good results and allows the flash guns to be set at a reasonable distance from the object. For example, at a magnification of x9, my main flash gun would need to be set 8cm from the flower when using an ISO 64 film, but at 19cm for one of ISO 400, a more reasonable requirement.

***Erica ciliaris* in the New Forest**

GEOFFREY FIELD

37 Milton Grove, NEW MILTON, Hampshire, BH25 6HB

Odd plants of *Erica ciliaris* have been known in the Forest for some time. Three good patches are still on the islet in Sluifers Pond where they were planted in the 1960s, probably soon after the pond was excavated. J.E. Lousley collected material from slightly further north, which no one has ever been able to re-find. The terrain there is so unpromising - featureless, flat, dry heath with little more than three species of heather, *Ulex minor*, and two grasses - that it is difficult to see why anyone should even want to walk across it, let alone botanise. Nor has another recorded site in tetrad 2002 on the outskirts of Burley been traced.

A well-known site is a single large clump at the southern edge of Matley Wood, right up at the head of a piece of boggy ground, almost in the shade of the trees and looking improbably native.

More interesting is the single clump at Scrape Bottom, in a natural looking situation just above the really wet floor of the valley. The only slight reservation is that it is directly in line with the alien *Myrica cerifera* on the hill slope above - an obvious marker if someone were looking for an easily identifiable planting site.

In September 1994 I went to look at this plant and then walked back along the edge of the bog up Clayhill Bottom and almost at the head of the bog, I stumbled upon two more small patches, some 8 metres apart. Going back in late August 1995 I discovered two more plants, slightly further down the bog. The plants are in an irregularly zigzag line down the edge of the bog, the three northernmost fairly close, the other further away, the distances roughly 8, 5 and 23 metres apart.

The site is a typical New Forest valley mire. All the plants are in rather wet ground (decidedly wetter than the Dorset sites I know best) growing through *Erica tetralix* and not very robust *Molinia* which is well cattle-grazed here. There is a little *Narthecium* and *Carex panicea* nearby but little else. One is a very small clump and appears to consist of two separate plants which may even only have flowered

for the first time that year and could possibly be seedlings from the bigger patch five metres away.

Of all the Forest sites these look the most at home, but, knowing the propensity of people to plant daft species in the bogs — *Sarracenia* spp. and in 1995 a magnificently flowering Venus Fly trap *Dionaea muscipula* — one can never categorically say that they are native.

I thank the vice-county recorder, R. P. Bowman for giving me the history of the other sites.

Tetrad coordinates

Sluifers Pond	SV2208
Matley Wood	SV3206
Scrape Bottom	SV2200
Clayhill Bottom	SV2202

Studies in the Ericaceae (Ericoideae), XXI. *Erica oakesiorum*, a new tree species from South Africa.

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CLAREMONT 7735, South Africa,

² 13 Vlei Street, GREYTON 7233, South Africa.

Erica oakesiorum is a new, floriferous species which has been overlooked in many years of botanical collecting in the mountain ranges above Greyton and Genadendal, Western Cape. This is all the more surprising seeing that the species grows there on the lower slopes as well as the rocky upper reaches of these impressive mountains. The nearby village of Genadendal has been a mission station of the Moravian Church since the eighteenth century and as such was a favourite stopping-off post for many early travellers including botanical collectors – there are numerous old collections from there. A small collection of this species was present in the problem collections in the Compton Herbarium, collected in the eastern end of the same long mountain range. Then fresh material appeared at the Caledon Wildflower Show in 1994, but its origin could not be traced. The ‘discovery’ of the species in the wild is linked to the Heather Society because when material was required by the first author for taking over to the Heather Society’s Conference in Dublin in 1995, he asked two local enthusiasts to scour the Greyton mountains for as many species as possible to take with him. When he came to pick the material up he discovered the new species which had been found by the last author in a kloof (ravine) above Greyton, but with most of the material slightly past peak flowering. However, one small branch was present in the display of 115 species at the Conference. This prompted us to investigate the populations in early August 1996.

We visited the population growing in wet areas in a fairly steep shallow kloof (ravine) running south between Greyton and Genadendal at about 500m altitude. With the main peak nearby being 1466m high, this population was clearly on the lower slopes.



Fig. 1. Population of *Erica oakesiorum* above Greyton with Inge Oliver to show scale.

The plants were mostly 2–4m tall with the largest in the centre of the kloof being 4m tall. As such the species must be counted among the tallest of southern African heathers as only three other species are reported to reach this height in the wild, *E. caffra* L., *E. canaliculata* Andr. and *E. dracomontana* E. G. H. Oliv. The size of the plants of the new species is all the more surprising because the whole area was devastated by a fire only nine years ago. This was confirmed by the branching pattern indicating a remarkable yearly growth of 30–40cm.

The plants were growing with tall *Psoralea aphylla* (Fabaceae) and the large fern *Todea barbara*, and with a few plants of the tree *Cunonia capensis*, which is usually an indicator of moist habitats. Despite their size the plants were not all that visible from a distance being tucked down in the small kloof. Outside the kloof the dominant species was *E. hispidula* L., a small flowered, wind-pollinated species, with patches of *E. perlata* Sinclair and *E. pannosa* Salisb. in flower and *E. tomentosa* Salisb. and *E. floccifera* Zahlbr. just coming into

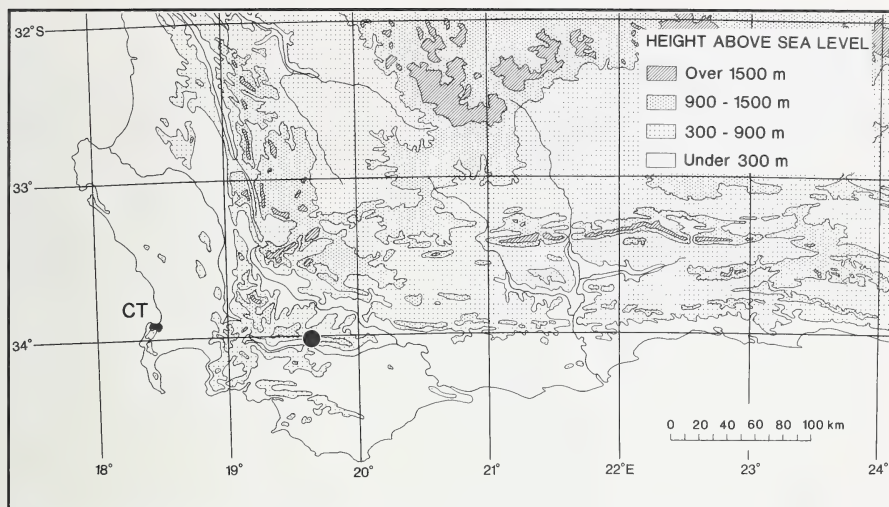


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Erica oakesiorum* in the Western Cape, South Africa

flower. Some more populations of the new species were subsequently noted past flowering at low altitude in a few kloofs to the west by the last author, and (after drafting this paper) several still in bloom higher up on the middle slopes and summit ridge. The Kruger material surprisingly comes from a high altitude (4600ft) some 30km to the east on the same mountain range and differs slightly in having more pubescent leaves. A thorough search in the intervening kloofs on the southern slopes could well provide more populations.

The flowers were slightly scented and no pollen was scattered when the plants were disturbed. This would indicate that the species is insect pollinated, but no pollinators were seen visiting the flowers. The small size of the nectaries and the expanded stigma would suggest that the species is beginning to evolve a wind-pollination syndrome which change has been noted in a number of other species in the genus.

The relationships of *E. oakesiorum* are difficult to assess. Within the region where it grows there are no closely related species. It could be mistaken for the local *E. floccifera* which also has the same growth pattern, but is much shorter in stature, has ternate leaves, hairy branches, white flowers with dark manifest anthers, hairy ovary and a slightly expanded stigma. However, the latter species has

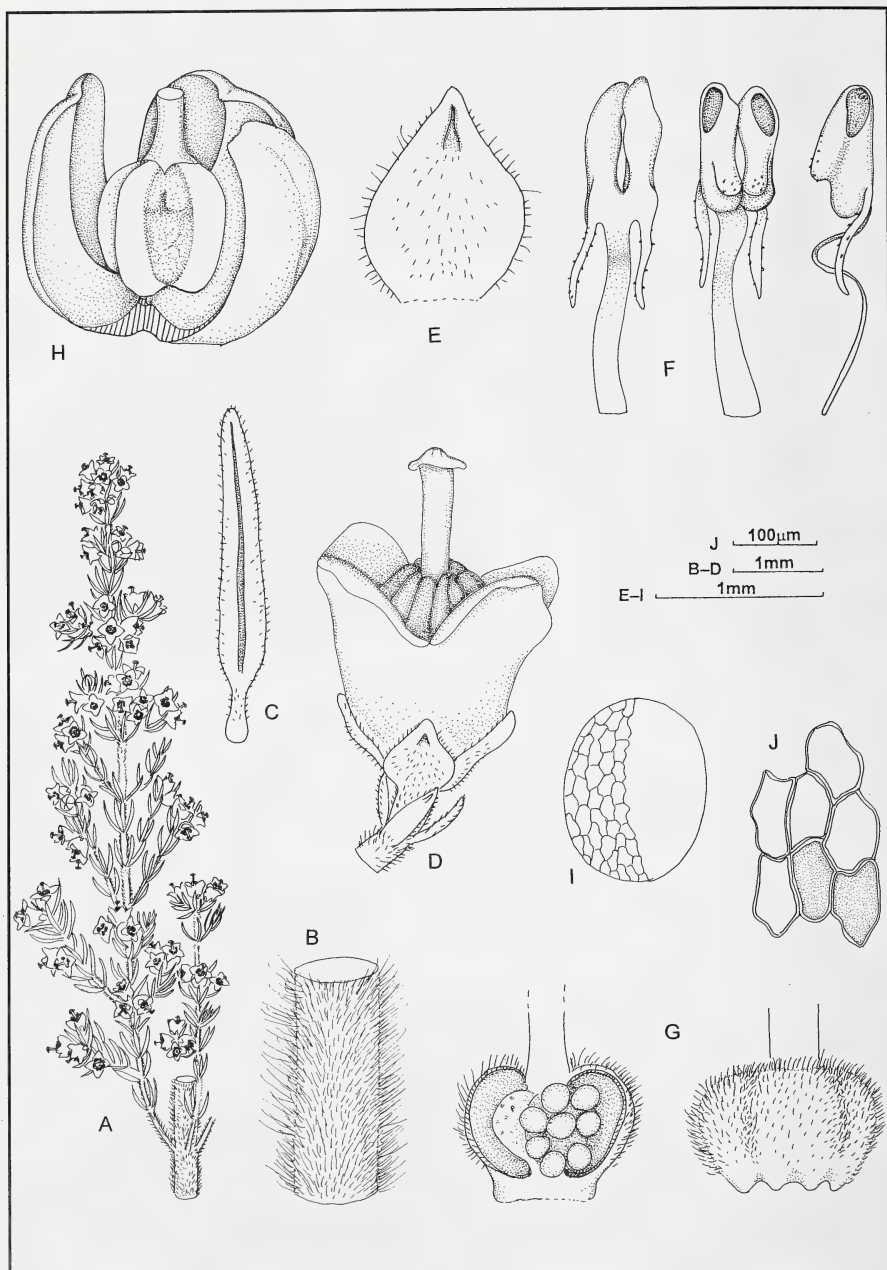


Fig.3. (opposite, p. 16)

Erica oakesiorum. A, flowering branch, natural size; B, branch; C, leaf; D, flower; E, sepal; F, stamen, back, front and side views; G, ovary, whole on left & opened laterally on right; H, capsule with one valve removed; I, subalveolate seed; J, testa cells; all drawn from the type collection. © Inga Oliver.



Fig. 4. (right)

Erica oakesiorum flowering branch.

distinctly plumose branched hairs on the stem, larger and more petaloid bract, bracteoles and calyx, and the seeds are dark brown and smooth as opposed to light brown and alveolate. Further afield there are species like *E. simulans* Dulfer and *E. inconstans* Zahlbr. which have somewhat similar floral and vegetative characters and have been recorded up to 2m tall.

This new species is named to honour John and Nerine Oakes, very keen botanically-oriented hikers, who with great dedication and enthusiasm have scoured the mountain slopes above their village of Greyton for interesting, unusual and rare species from all families of plants, some of which were new to science, *Watsonia minima* and *Geissorhiza callista*. In the Ericaceae John Oakes brought to our attention the rare *E. diotiflora* Salisb., known till then from only two collections from this mountain range and located excellent populations of the beautiful *E. tomentosa* and a new form of the widespread *E. calycina* L. He is still on the lookout for an elusive undescribed species first collected somewhere on the mountains above Greyton by some visiting Swedish collectors in 1938.

***Erica oakesiorum* E.G.H. Oliv., sp. nov.**

Frutex ad arbor ad 4m altus. Rami dense albobubescenti. Folia ternata anguste oblonga, adaxiale pubescentia abaxiale sparse pubescentia ad glabra. Flores ternati 1(2)-fasciculati pedicello pubescenti bractea bracteolisque parvis. Calyx quadripartitus segmentis triangularibus ad ovatis sparse pubescentibus ciliolatis. Corolla quadrilobata, 2.3 x 2.3 mm, cyathiformis glaber albida. Stamina 8 libera, antheris oblongis manifestis, calcaris pendulis, polline in tetradis. Ovarium quadriloculare, emarginatum late obovoideum pubescens, stylo exerto, stigmatibus peltato-cyathiformi. Semina subalveolata.

TYPE: SOUTH AFRICA, Western Cape, 3419 BA, Greyton area, SE slopes of Uitkykkop, 520m, 9 September 1996, *Oliver, Oakes & Volk 10698* (NBG holotype; isotypes **BM, BOL, E, K, MO, NY, PRE, S**).

Large erect single-stemmed shrub to tree 2–4m tall, stems up to 60mm diam. **Branches:** numerous erect main branches with erect secondary branchlets 10–50mm long and numerous tertiary branchlets 2–10mm long, erect to subspreading, all terminating in a florescence or main branch occasionally continuing vegetative growth, with dense subspreading short and long white hairs up to 1mm long, occasionally with forked tips. **Leaves** 3-nate, suberect, imbricate to much shorter than internodes, 3.0–4.0 x 0.4mm, narrowly oblong, flattened adaxially, rounded and narrowly sulcate abaxially, edges acute, sparsely pubescent or glabrous abaxially, always pubescent adaxially, petiole 0.5mm long, appressed, finely pubescent. **Inflorescence:** flowers 3-nate in 1(2) whorls, terminal, numerous, densely arranged; pedicel 1.0–1.3mm long, pubescent, pale greenish white; bract basal to midposition, 0.7(–1.5) x 0.2mm, lanceolate, sparsely hairy to glabrous, ciliolate, white sometimes tinged cream or reddish; bracteoles 2, in midposition, 0.7 x 0.2mm, otherwise like bract. **Calyx** 4-partite, segments free to slightly imbricate, 1.2 x 0.8mm, triangular to ovate, narrowly sulcate in upper third, sparsely pubescent, ciliolate, basally and in middle pale greenish with white margins and cream keel-tip. **Corolla** 4-lobed, 2.3 x 2.3mm, cyathiform, glabrous, white; lobes erect or very slightly spreading, triangular, subacute, entire, third as long as corolla. **Stamens** 8, free; filaments linear with an apical sigmoid bend, white, glabrous; anthers just manifest, bilobed, oblong, appendiculate, dark reddish brown abaxially and yellowish brown adaxially with dark red apex to filament and basal half of spurs with white tips; thecae subtriangular-ovate, $\pm 0.7 \times 0.3$ mm, minutely strigose adaxially otherwise glabrous, pore \pm the length of theca; spurs pendulous, \pm length of theca, reddish, strigulose; pollen in tetrads. **Ovary** 4-locular, $\pm 0.6 \times 1.0$ mm, broadly obovoid, emarginate, densely pubescent, pale green with small pale red nectaries around the base; ovules 6–10 per locule, spreading from a complete placenta; style exserted, ± 3 mm long, glabrous, white; stigma cyathiform-peltate with central raised darker stigmatic lobes, yellowish to reddish. **Capsule** ovoid to broadly cylindrical, $\pm 1.7 \times 1.6$ mm, with very delicate valves splitting to base, septa mostly on the columella; seed $\pm 1.0 \times 0.7$ mm, ovoid, elliptic in transverse section, subalveolate, golden brown.

Paratypes: W. CAPE. 3419: (–BA), Greyton, S slopes of Uitkyk Peak, 600m, 25 Aug. 1996, *Oakes 56* (NBG); Greyton, Nooienskop, head of kloof, 1280m, 9 Oct. 1996, *Oliver 10755* (G, K, NBG, P, PRE); Greyton, edge of Die Plaat above Tiergat, 1040m, 9 Oct. 1996, *Oliver 10760* (NBG, PRE); Greyton, SE slopes of Uitkykkop, 520m, 9 Aug. 1996, albino plant, *Oliver, Oakes & Volk 10699* (NBG); Greyton area, W & above ‘Chicken Rock’ below Kanonkop [Uitkykkop], 24 Aug. 1995, *Volk 81* (NBG, herb Volk); (–BB), Riviersonderend Mts, Pilaarkop, steep S slopes, 4600ft [1403m], 6 May 1971, *Kruger 1257* (NBG, PRE)

The heather illustrations in the catalogues of Maxwell & Beale with an account of the botanical artist Winifred Walker (1882-1966).

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You might expect that the question 'What two features do the following cultivars have in common?' followed by a list containing: *Erica carnea* 'Alba', *E. vagans* 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' and 'St Keverne', *E. cinerea* 'C. D. Eason' and 'Golden Hue', *E. x watsonii* 'Dawn' and 'H. Maxwell', and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alportii' and 'H. E. Beale' to end with a request to distinguish the odd one out amongst the nine. Alternatively, you might wonder whether you were at the Heather Society's conference, or participating in some other gardening quiz. It certainly seems out of place as the opening sentence to an article in the *Yearbook*. The more knowledgeable heather growers would realise that these are quite old cultivars – in fact all were named before 1930.

Those interested in the history of heathers would notice that several of the names have links with Maxwell & Beale's Dorset nursery at Broadstone and conclude correctly that is a significant part of the relationship. Others might know that four of them: 'Dawn', 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell', 'H. Maxwell' and 'Golden Hue' were found by the Maxwells. Reference to the *Handy guide to heathers* would reveal that six of them, in fact, had been introduced by Maxwell & Beale. Yet not all nine are covered by either of these categories. Two of the cultivars – *Erica carnea* 'Alba' and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alportii' – are extremely old having been introduced in 1823 and 1867 respectively, with the first being found in Germany. *E. vagans* 'St Keverne', like several of the cultivars listed, was found in Cornwall. It was discovered by P. D. Williams in 1909 – long before the Maxwell & Beale nursery was founded. Jones (1978) wrote a detailed history of the firm and its various directors and staff, and Maxwell and Patrick (1966), and Everett (1982) provided information on the nursery's many heather introductions. Having exhausted many of the possible

links, it would be unfair to maintain the suspense any longer, especially as the implied heather connection is merely a masquerade. The list of cultivars represents the illustrations painted by the botanical artist Winifred Walker for Maxwell & Beale's catalogues.

Several of the later Maxwell & Beale catalogues of hardy Heathers became available to us last year (see Maginess 1995) and although the company had begun to use colour photographs as illustrations during the 1960s, these also contained paintings of older cultivars. It was noted that at least seven of the paintings were signed Winifred Walker, but recourse to standard British reference works failed to provide any biographical information; it was only by referring to a German work on botanical illustration (Nissen 1966) and a French dictionary of artists & engravers (Bénézit 1976) that some details were discovered.

WINIFRED WALKER (1882–1966).

Winifred Walker was the youngest daughter of one of the more influential figures in the development of infant education in London during the radical social changes of the late nineteenth century. Her mother Louisa Walker (1853–1922), the headmistress of a Board school in Hampstead, was largely responsible for introducing the Froebelian idea that occupational and play activity should form a significant part in the teaching of young children (Marsden 1991). Her own children were amongst those who benefitted from these innovative methods by going on to win scholarships.

During Winifred's school years the family lived in a house on the southern edge of Hampstead Heath and by slipping through the back gate she came to know the local flora. Subsequently, after attending the Camden School of Art and a brief period as an art teacher in London, she realised that the detailed portraits of plants she was in the habit of producing might lead to a career. At that time, before colour photography was easily available, horticulturists and seed merchants relied upon artists to depict the new varieties of garden flowers and other plant introductions. Winifred Walker began her career by illustrating catalogues and packets for Ryder's of St Albans and Bees of Chester. Another of her earliest tasks was to provide illustrations of new rhododendrons for the monographs by J. G. Millais (1917, 1924). By the time Millais published his second



Fig.1. Winfred Walker 1882-1966
[by courtesy of Mary Fryett].

series, Miss Walker was regarded as an established botanical artist, for he wrote in his preface:

In figuring the various species ... I have again been so fortunate as to secure the help of ... Miss Winifred Walker, whose work is so well known to all lovers of flowers.

During the early 1920s she had married an artillery officer, Ernest Fryett, but decided to continue to use her maiden name professionally. The various postings of her husband provided opportunities for her to portray the flora of different parts of Britain in illustrations for popular gardening magazines.

Following the First World War, she occasionally exhibited more pictorial flower paintings at events in Britain, Europe and North America and often succeeded in winning commemorative medals and other awards. Apart from substantiating her work on seed packet illustrations in both Britain & the U.S.A., these brought her particular commissions from the owners of distinctive gardens to capture selected plants or other special features.



Fig.2. Composite plate with *Rhododendron brachyanthum*, *R. lanatum*, *R. hypolepidotum*, *R. cinnabarinum* x *crassum*, *R. glaucum* x *boothii*, *R. argyrophyllum* [Millais 2nd series 1924].



Fig.3. "A Bouquet from an Old World Garden". The title aptly describes the picture which conveys the subtle charm and fragrance of an Old World Garden [mounted print, shown at the Royal Academy].

Later, from 1929 to 1939, Winifred Walker became one of the artists in residence at the Royal Horticultural Society. Their task was to record various 'meritorious garden plants', especially those that had been given an Award of Merit. Blunt & Stearn (1994, p. 301) listed Winifred Walker as one of the Society's artists and it has been possible to find some 160 figures that she produced in the archives now held at the RHS Library, Wisley. The majority of the paintings and sketches feature *Narcissus*, *Rhododendron* and *Chrysanthemum* and presumably this reflects their popularity at that time. But there is a single example of a heather – *Erica verticillata* 'Major', dated 31 August 1937. Inevitably, I began my search for Miss Walker's paintings with that genus and was pleased to find this Cape Peninsula species, especially as the artist seemed to have



Fig. 4. *Erica verticillata* 'Major' dated 31 August 1937
[Royal Horticultural Society, Lindley Library].

depicted the characteristic orientation of the flowers. In the account of the Floral Committee's award at the R.H.S. show given in *The gardener's chronicle* **102** (no 2645, 4 September 1937: 186), it is stated that

This variety is an immense improvement on the species, especially in that it bears many more delicately beautiful long-tubed, pale salmon flowers and of a larger size. Shown by Lionel de Rothschild (gardener - Mr. Francis Hanger), Exbury, Southampton. The succeeding issue of *The gardeners' chronicle* **102** (2646, 11 September 1937: 190) has a photograph of the plant showing two long spikes. To my knowledge that was the last time Winifred Walker painted a heather. Yet, as mentioned above, her earlier work was still being used by Maxwell & Beale in the 1960s.

Shakespeare's flowers became her major preoccupation in the 1930s leading to exhibitions throughout Britain during 1938 and 1939. These paintings were lost on their way for display in America

in September 1939 at the outbreak of war, when the S.S. *Athenia* was torpedoed and sunk. Most of the passengers were rescued and Winifred Walker, after her ordeal and arrival in New York, immediately set about re-creating her work. Her daughter has exhibited these paintings in Britain, but the intended book still awaits publication.

Throughout the war years and until 1949, Winifred Walker held various appointments at American universities and botanical institutions. Apart from painting the local flora, she was able to fulfil another goal by producing a book describing and depicting *All the plants of The Bible* (1957); this was later re-published with coloured plates (1979). On returning to Britain she was occasionally commissioned to produce paintings of 'past and present' flower themes for publication in the special colour supplements periodically issued by the *Illustrated London News*.

Among the intriguing facets of Miss Walker's life is her use of the initials FLS (Fellow of the Linnean Society) after her name (e.g. the title-pages of her publications, Walker 1957, 1979). Following an exhibition at Stratford, a newspaper account (*Stratford on Avon Herald*, 18 August 1950) claimed that she had been made an honorary Fellow of the Linnean Society in recognition of her work clarifying Shakespeare's flowers. But after examination of the membership records and Council minutes of that Society, the only trace I have found is a letter from Winifred Walker, dated 2 March 1939, written after receiving details of membership in which she explained that she was 'entirely a creative artist ... working among flowers, for the pure joy that it gives me' and seeking exemption

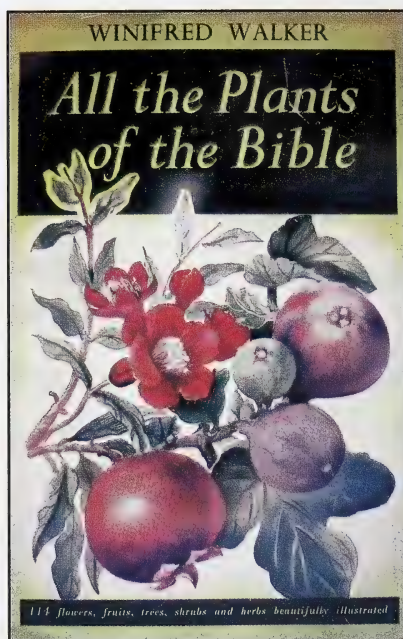


Fig. 5. Dust-jacket of 1979 edition of *All the plants of The Bible*.

from the general regulations. It is probable that her letter was never answered for the minutes indicate that at that time the Linnean Society Council and its Secretary were pre-occupied with honorary membership for Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother), preparations for the probability of war and the safety of the Society's historic collections.

ILLUSTRATIONS IN MAXWELL & BEALE'S CATALOGUES

Examination of various sets of the hardy heathers catalogues published by the Maxwell & Beale nursery during its existence (1919 to 1972), especially the set held by the Lindley Library, Vincent Square, enabled a fairly complete list to be compiled. A total of 38 catalogues have been examined (a full list of the 38 catalogues seen and their illustrations is available from the author). Winifred Walker produced paintings of seven different cultivars which were used to illustrate the catalogues on 25 occasions. This was increased to eight cultivars and 26 catalogues when I learnt that the illustrations in Maxwell's *The low road* (1927) (A. W. Jones, pers. comm.) were by Walker, and then realised that the un-signed painting of *E. carnea* 'Alba' used there and in the 1925 catalogue, had to be listed as hers. *The low road* also contained a different illustration of *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alportii' which was not used in any of the catalogues available for examination.

It is perhaps necessary to mention that among D. Fyfe Maxwell's idiosyncrasies was the use of *Erica vulgaris* instead of *Calluna vulgaris*; Millais had also used *Erica vulgaris*. In his book, Maxwell (1927, p. 63) alluded to the Scottish use of the term 'Heather-r-r' for what we would call *Calluna*. He stated:

Its correct name is *Calluna* ... but for common or garden purposes it is a Heather amongst heathers and for the sake of convenience, I shall miscall it *Erica vulgaris* ... I crave the pardon of the too, too sensitive botanists.

At that time, too, although the parentage of the various hybrids was also known, the system of nomenclature for indicating this was not widely established. Consequently, his catalogues did not list *Erica x watsonii* for the *E. ciliaris* x *tetralix* crosses.

It is difficult to understand the reasons for the selection and frequency of particular illustrations as shown in the accompanying table. Certainly, the earliest of Walker's painting, showing *E. carnea*



Fig. 6. *Erica vagans* 'Mrs D.F. Maxwell' Maxwell & Beale 1928 catalogue

'Alba', has little merit and the most frequently used one, *E. cinerea* 'C. D. Eason', does not appear to be any better than any of the others. All are botanically accurate, indicate the features of the cultivar and are artistically satisfying to the eye. In his book, Maxwell (1927) made only brief comments; 'Golden Hue' was 'admirably portrayed by Miss Walker' (p. 54), and about 'St Keverne' (p. 59) he wrote that 'I will refrain from a full description and refer the reader to Miss Walker's excellent picture'.

After 1934, other artists were used to provide illustrations and although it is not possible to distinguish all their signatures, at least, four different styles can be recognised and are listed in Table 1.

- OJB** *Erica vulgaris* 'County Wicklow' (Introduced 1930)
published 1935
- VD** *Erica carnea* 'Eileen Porter' (introduced 1937)
published 1952/53; 1958/59
- MEH** *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White' with *E. carnea* 'Vivellii'
published 1939; 1953/54; 1957/58; 1960/61; 1962/63
- MH** *Erica vulgaris* 'Alba Plena' (introduced in UK 1938)
published 1939; 1948/49; 1950/51; 1956/57; 1961/62

anonymous artists

- X** *Erica vulgaris* 'J. H. Hamilton' (introduced 1935)
published 1936; 1936/37; 1938/39; 1957/58
Menziesia azorica (= *Daboecia azorica*) (introduced 1929)
published 1937/38; 1938/39; 1946/47; 1950/51
- Y** *Erica cinerea* 'C. G. Best' and 'P. S. Patrick' with *E. vulgaris* 'County Wicklow'
published 1939

Table 1. Other artists whose paintings were used to illustrate Maxwell & Beale's catalogues, with name of heather and catalogue publication dates.

Among them, I suspect that the artist M. Hamilton, responsible for the German discovery *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alba Plena' marketed by the firm in the U.K., was a relative of the nursery's director J. H. Hamilton. One difference between these and Winifred Walker's paintings is that instead of a single subject they feature sprigs of several cultivars floristically arranged – no doubt another marketing ploy and artistically quite effective. However, I must confess that of them all, I much prefer the spreading spikes of *C. vulgaris* 'County Wicklow' which was only used in the 1935 catalogue soon after its discovery (see the accounts of Nelson 1981, Maxwell & Patrick 1966, Letts 1966) and the subsequent introduction by the firm in 1930. Despite these developments the Walker paintings continued to be used occasionally by the firm to the end – even after her death in 1966, the last and ninth painting of 'C. D. Eason' was used in three subsequent catalogues.

Without the advantages of to-day's technology for disseminating lists of the latest cultivars and providing attractive coloured pictures to tempt purchasers, it would seem that commissioning artists to produce illustrations for their catalogues was another innovative foible of the Maxwell and Beale partnership. Other nurserymen



Fig. 7. *Erica cinerea* 'C.D. Eason' Maxwell & Beale 1933 catalogue

undoubtedly used this technique for I have seen an album of paintings illustrating a wide range of popular flowers that Winifred Walker completed for Ryder's, the seed and fertiliser specialists of St Albans, that featured several of their newly produced plants.

Although not intended to be great works of art, Winifred Walker's illustrations of the Maxwell heather cultivars fulfil their purpose and convey the characters of these distinctive forms – perhaps, as in all advertising, things are a trifle over-emphasized. It would be interesting to see the sales figures for each cultivar afterwards to enable us to judge her success.

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I have to express my gratitude to the editor, Charles Nelson, for asking me to undertake the task of discovering more about the artist responsible for the illustrations used in the Maxwell & Beale catalogues. In progressing from her virtual anonymity to a reasonable knowledge of Winifred Walker's achievements, I have been assisted by her relatives, various Heather Society members and many colleagues.

Through the advice and search of staff at the West Sussex Record office and the Chichester Registrar respectively the initial impasse was broken and the 'vanishing lady' substantiated. Once located, I have to record my appreciation of the help given by her daughter, Mrs Pax Lohan, and daughter-in-law, Mrs Mary Fryett, in allowing me to see various paintings, prints and other effects. Inevitably, with his keen interest and wealth of knowledge of everything appertaining to the literature and history of heathers, together with his own research on the Maxwell & Beale nursery, Bert Jones provided useful information and drew my attention to the use of Miss Walker's illustrations in *The low road*. Barry Horton, another Society member, facilitated my examination of the Maxwell & Beale catalogues by kindly presenting me with copies of the later issues.

Amongst colleagues, I need to thank the librarians and staff at the following organisations for their help and advice: Diana Miller of the R.H.S. Library, Wisley; Gina Douglas, Librarian at the Linnean Society; Malcolm Beasley in the Botany Library of the Natural History Museum; Sylvia Fitzgerald, Librarian at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Dr Brent Elliott and Jenny Vine at the R.H.S. Lindley Library; Ruth Brennan at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and Laura Woolley of Worthing Museum and Art Gallery.

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Appendix

Winifred Walker's illustrations in Maxwell & Beale's heather catalogues, listed chronologically as they appeared in catalogues

1. *Erica carnea* 'Alba'
introduced by 1823; published 1926; 1927; *The low road* [not signed]
2. *Erica hybrida* 'Dawn' [= *E. x watsonii* 'Dawn']
found by D. F. Maxwell, introduced in 1925 (Jones 1978); published 1926; 1928; 1930; 1934; 1955/56; *The low road* (opp p. 71)
3. *Erica vagans* 'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell'
found Mrs. Maxwell; introduced in 1925 (Jones 1978); published 1926; 1927; 1928; 1933; 1946/47; 1954/55; 1962/63; *The low road* (opp p. 62)
4. *Erica hybrida* 'H. Maxwell' [= *E. x watsonii* 'H. Maxwell']
found by D. F. Maxwell, introduced in 1925 (Jones 1978); published 1929; 1932; 1936; *The low road* (opp p. 69)
5. *Erica vagans* 'St Keverne'
found by P. D. Williams in 1909; published 1929; 1931; 1935; *The low road* (opp p. 58)
6. *Erica vulgaris* 'Alportii' [= *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alportii']
introduced by 1867; *The low road* (facing p. 65)
7. *Erica cinerea* 'Golden Hue'
found by D. F. Maxwell, introduced in 1925 (Jones 1978); published 1930; *The low road* (opp p. 54)
8. *Erica vulgaris* 'H. E. Beale' [= *Calluna vulgaris* 'H. E. Beale']
introduced in 1928 (Jones 1978); published 1931; 1932; 1936/37
9. *Erica cinerea* 'C.D. Eason'
Found C. D. Eason; introduced in 1929 (Jones 1978); published 1933; 1934; 1937/38; 1948/49; 1953/54; 1955/56; 1959/60; 1965/66; 1967/68; 1968/69; 1969/70; 1970/71; 1972 [re-use of previous catalogue by an adhesive label].

An un-dated separate illustration amongst the RHS set of catalogues of *Gentiana sino-ornata* appears to bear 'WW' monogram

Irish heathers, 1846: an unpublished address to the Royal Irish Academy.

JAMES TOWNSEND MACKAY (1775–1862)

Trinity College Botanic Gardens, Ballsbridge, DUBLIN.

Edited by **E. CHARLES NELSON**

Tippitiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, OUTWELL, Norfolk, PE14 8PE.

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

James Townsend Mackay (1775–1862) (Fig. 1) was a Scot who moved to Dublin and for more than half a century (from 1806) was curator of the College Botanic Garden at Ballsbridge, as well as being Ireland's principal field botanist and author of *Flora Hibernica* (1836).

Mackay, commemorated in the name *Erica mackaiana* Bab. and the African genus *Mackaya* (Acanthaceae), claimed the discovery in Ireland of *E. erigena* (Irish heath; as *E. mediterranea*) although this species had been collected in Connacht in the late seventeenth century by the Welsh antiquarian, Edward Llyyd.

On 14 September 1846, Thomas Bergin¹, a Dublin engineer and amateur botanist, found *E. ciliaris* (Dorset heath) in Connemara, adding another heather to the list of those known from Ireland. The story of Bergin's discovery is told elsewhere (Eager, Nelson & Scannell 1978). This discovery evidently persuaded Mackay to prepare an account of Irish heathers to be read at a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, the Irish equivalent of the Royal Society of London. The manuscript of Mackay's intended address was found several years ago among a collection of manuscripts in the School of Botany, Trinity College, Dublin; I am grateful to Dr John Parnell for making a photocopy of the manuscript available to me.

The text following is transcribed from the manuscript, the date of which can only be guessed from the remark in the second paragraph that 'in Sept[embe]r last' Bergin added *E. ciliaris* to the Irish flora. Otherwise, no record of an address by Mackay to the Royal Irish Academy has been traced and it is possible that he did not have an opportunity to deliver this paper.

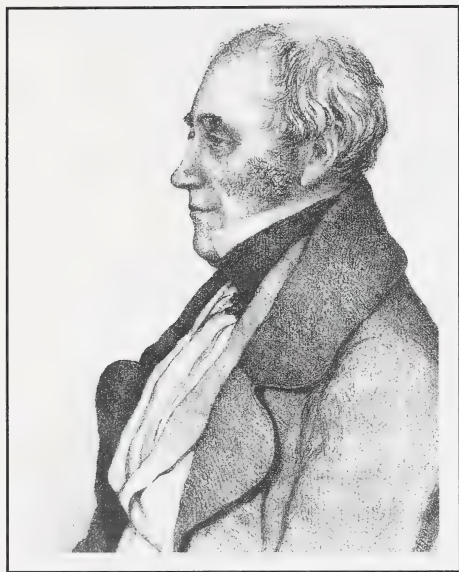


Fig. 1. James Townsend Mackay

As can be seen from the transcription, the text was not intended directly for publication – although it could easily have been edited for the Royal Irish Academy's *Transactions*.

J. T. Mackay's text is interesting for the light thrown on two enigmatic Irish heather records, *E. carnea* from County Galway and *E. vagans* from County Waterford. In this manuscript Mackay rejects both as unreliable. Other matters are noted in the accompanying footnotes.

J. T. MACKAY'S TEXT

As the wild district of Cunnemara has of late years been much resorted to by Botanists and other tourists, perhaps it may be interesting to the Academy to give a short detail of the characters of the different species of Ericaceae or Heaths that grow there & no where else in Ireland or in Britain, & also to make a few observations & exhibit specimens of the other species of Heath recorded as having been found in Ireland.

My principal reason for bringing forward this subject at present is that my friend Mr Bergin had the good fortune in Sept^r last² to add to our Irish Flora *Erica ciliaris*, a beautiful & very distinct species of Heath of which no certain station or habitat was before known in Ireland.

This plant ~~although~~ an old inhabitant of our Gardens³, grows on the western Pyrenees, in Spain & Portugal, but was not known to grow in England until 1829, when it was found by the Revd. Mr Tozer⁴ in several spots in the neighbourhood of Truro⁵ in Cornwall, but most plentifully & most luxuriantly [f. 2] at East Croft. Sir Wm Hooker remarks that so striking a plant could not have escaped the observation of other Gentlemen residing in Cornwall; & that Mr Dillwyn⁶ had also communicated two other stations for the plant which had been long known to Sir Charles Lemon.

It is a procumbent plant of straggling growth, flowering in Sepb^r & Ocb^r.

The following are its most striking characters all of which may be pretty well seen in ~~by~~ this drawing or figure, as well as in the specimens to be now handed round.

E. ciliaris, Linn. Anthers awnless, included in the corolla, ovary smooth, style protruded, Corollas ovate, gibbous or swollen out above, mouth oblique. Leaves generally 3 in a whorl, rarely 4, ovate or egg shaped, glaucous [*sic*] beneath, fringed, as well as the Calyx with glandular hairs, racemes or Clusters of flowers secund or pointing to one side.

The secund racemes are best ~~better~~ seen in the dried specimens.

The leaves of *E. ciliaris* resemble in some respects those of *Erica Mackaii* Hooker⁷ to be next spoken of, but the awnless anthers, secund or unilateral racemes of flowers which are differently shaped besides the 8 angled ovary, & other characters, at once shows that it belongs to a quite different division [f. 3] from that of ~~to which~~ *E. Mackaii* & *E. tetralix*; which are so closely allied that several acute Botanists who have only seen dried specimens of *E. Mackaii* think it only a variety of the latter.⁸

Before sending round specimens of each in their usual form, for comparison, I shall give their characters.

E. Mackaii, Hooker. Leaves 4 in a whorl oblong-ovate with glandular hairs on their margins. White beneath, mid rib ~~beneath~~ and upper surface glabrous flowers capitate, anthers awned, ovary glabrous.

E. tetralix. Leaves four in a whorl, lanceolate or linear, downy above & on the mid rib beneath margins revolute, anthers awned, ovary downy.

Mr Babbington [*sic*] in his Manual of British Botany has the merit of giving some of the minute characters of the above plants which I have found to be correct, ~~namely~~ some of which had been previously noticed by Sir Wm. J. Hooker in his British Flora. ~~namely~~ The glabrous or smooth upper surface of the leaves & midrib beneath, together with the smooth ovary in *E. Mackaii*; & the downy upper surface of the leaf, midrib, & ovary ~~downy~~ These characters may be seen with a small lens in these leaves, to be handed round.

[f. 4] *Erica Mackaii* was ~~first~~ discovered between Clifden & Roundstone in Cunnemara in the Autumn of 183[?]⁹ by Mr Wm McCalla¹⁰ a young man who has distinguished himself by his discoveries in Marine Botany & other branches of Natural history. & Having sent me specimens, I at once pronounced it quite distinct from any variety of *E. tetralix* I had seen, & thought it might prove to be a distinct species, but which other Botanists at the time thought only a variety of it ~~*E. tetralix*~~ & others still do. I sent specimens to Sir Wm J. Hooker who although [at] the time I had some doubts as to its being a distinct species named it after me *E. mackaii*, & published it in his Companion to the Botanical Magazine Vol. 1 – page 159. As Sir Wm ~~remarks it is a~~ Hooker has since stated – it is a remarkable factor that it was discovered on the Sierra del Paral in Asturia ~~Austria~~ by Mr Gay a French Botanist in the same year as in Ireland, who sent it to him as a distinct & new species after he had published it & given it a name.

[f. 5] When I first saw this plant growing at Craigha-moira or Craig-a-more in Cunnemara when I last visited it ~~when I last~~ in Augst 1838 along with the

late Doctor [Robert] Graham of Edinburgh, Dr. Joseph Hooker the now Celebrated Antartic [*sic*] Botanist, Doctor [John H.] Balfour now Professor of Botany, Mr [William] Andrews Mr Simon Foot & several other Gentlemen I was at once struck with its remarkable & distinct appearance, as were all the party when I brought them to its station, when they all took a large supply of specimens as well as myself, some of which are now exhibited, the flowers & leaves of which have considerably lost their color in drying. Its more compact & bushy form of growth, which it retains in cultivation¹¹ at once serves to distinguish it from any form of *E. tetralix* I have met with, besides the minute Characters that have been mentioned.

[f. 6] Before I speak of another showy Heath found in Cunnemara & Mayo only, in three Kingdoms – I shall show you specimens of a very beautiful species, common on dry Heaths all over the country & in woods, namely *Erica cineria* [*sic*] or fine Leaved Heath. In the woods at Killarney it attains a large size & is ~~there~~ much admired by travellers – I saw it in great beauty there in Augst last when I collected those specimens.

This is placed by some Botanists in the same division with the two last, but is at once distinguished by its fine leaves & mode of flowering, the flowers being arranged in loose racemes or spikes. the anthers are fringed or serrated at the base.

I shall now show you specimens of a beautiful Spring flowering Heath, which was first found by me, on Erris-beg mountain near Roundstone in 1829¹², which though then out of flower I determined to be ~~a variety if not the same species as~~ *E. mediterranea* or Corsican Heath¹³, which I had previously known in Gardens – I was led to look for it on Erris-beg [*sic*] by Mr John Nimmo, ~~Brother of the late Mr Nimmo who was a member of this Academy~~ who told me that the peasantry gathered there a strange kind of Heath [f. 7] which they used for fuel.¹⁴ On the plant I brought to Dublin flowering the following Spring I found I was right in my conjecture It however turns out to be a variety of the Corsican Heath¹³, of a stiffer mode of growth, more hardy, & flowering earlier, – in mild winters as early as February, at least a month or six weeks before the other – both varieties are very ornamental Spring shrubs.

Our Errisbeg plant is known to grow on the Western Pyrenees in nearly the same degree of West longitude, namely 10 degrees¹⁵, as I stated in my notice of it to the Royal Irish Academy¹⁶ at the time I found it. The leaves are produced in whorls. The flowers in unilateral terminal racemes. The corolla is urceolate [*sic*] or Pitcher-shaped the stamens a little exerted, anthers without awns, ovary glabrous.

A dwarf growing variety of this plant was ~~is~~ found in Erris by John Wynne Esq of Hazel Wood & others, & I have a plant in the Garden brought from Enniscoe near Mt Nephin in Mayo of a more slender mode of growth, with flowers of a brighter red than the other, & resembling very much the Corsican variety.

The species is found in Spain & Portugal

[f. 8] I have here 3 specimens of *Erica carnea*, Linn. *E. herbacea* of [?], a beautiful early flowering species – the well known dwarf Heath of the Gardens which several eminent Botanists have confounded with the last *E. mediterranea*. specimens of which were sent to Sir Wm Hooker by Miss Marten of Ross near Oughterard in Galway as an Irish plant & have been published by him as such. These specimens were sent to me by Miss Martin in 1836 but as I had doubts of their having been found in a wild state I did not publish it.

On my calling at Ross along with the late Dr Graham & others when on our way to Cunnemara in 1838 we found the plant in the Garden there but nowhere else.

It appeared she had been deceived [*sic*] by a Gardener or labourer who told her that he found it in that neighbourhood, but on going with him to the place where he said he had found it, it could not be got. We must therefore for the present, expunge it from our Irish Flora.

Erica carnea is a native of Austria & Switzerland & was first introduced into England by the Earl of Coventry in 1763.

[f. 9] Another species of Heath *Erica vagans* or Cornish Heath of which I have Cornish & Garden specimens before me has been published as an Irish plant by Sir Wm Hooker¹⁷ on the authority of Dr Burkett who is said to have found it on a small Islet on the coast of Waterford, near Tramore. I recollect Mr Ball having shown me a specimen of that plant without flowers in 1837, when he was not certain of its having [been] found in a truly wild state. It is a common plant in Gardens, & very different from all our other native Heaths.

It is said to be confined to the Serpentine district in Cornwall – but Sir Wm Hooker states that Miss Warren of Flushing finds it in a Furze Croft in Mylor far from any Serpentine.

This the *Gypsocallis vagans* of D. Don.

Erica or *Calluna vulgaris*¹⁸

Irish Heaths	English Heaths
<i>Menziesia polifolia</i>	<i>Erica tetralix</i>
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	<i>cinerea</i>
<i>E. mackaii</i>	<i>vagans</i>
<i>E. cinerea</i>	<i>ciliaris</i>
<i>E. mediterranea</i>	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
<i>E. ciliaris</i>	
<i>E. vagans</i> ?	Scotch Heaths
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	<i>Erica tetralix</i>
	<i>cinerea</i>
	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
	<i>Phyllodoce caerulea</i> Salisb[ur]y
	<i>Menziesia caerulea</i>
	<i>Erica caerulea</i> Linn

NOTES

1. Incidentally, Bergin is commemorated in a western North American genus, *Berginia* (Acanthaceae) – not to be confused with *Bergenia* (Saxifragaceae).
2. 14 September 1846 – see Eager, Nelson & Scannell 1978.
3. Plants from the Irish population were in cultivation in the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from 20 September 1846, six days after Bergin discovered it.
4. Revd. John Savery Tozer (c.1790–1836) sent specimens to Hooker in September 1828 (Hooker 1831).
5. cf. Jones (1986: 35): 'from a bog near Truro' – the record was published by Lindley (1829: 174). Mackay is also quoting Hooker (1831 – see Jones 1984).
6. Lewis W. Dillwyn (1778–1855), porcelain manufacture of Swansea. Mackay is quoting Hooker (1831).
7. *E. mackaiana* Bab. has priority of *E. mackaii* Hook., the latter being a *nomen nudum*.
8. For a history of *E. mackaiana* (*E. mackaii*) see Nelson 1979.
9. This is so overscored that it is hopeless to try to decide whether Mackay intended 1835 or 1836.
10. Nelson (1981).
11. *E. mackaiana* has been in cultivation since its recognition in 1836.
12. 1830. Mackay frequently gave 1829 as the date of this discovery, but the overwhelming evidence is that he gathered the plant on Errisbeg in 1830.
13. *E. erigena* is not native in Corsica; English name Corsican heath is generally applied to *E. terminalis*.
14. Sprigs of *E. erigena* were used as applicators (used like a fly-whisk) for Bordeaux mixture.
15. *E. erigena* is not found in the western Pyrenees, unless by this locality Mackay intended the region of Santander-Bilbao-Logrono, to the west (see Foss & Doyle 1988), and 10°W long. is only an approximate longitude for Galicia (north-western Spain).
16. On 30 November 1830 Mackay read his account of the finding of *E. erigena* to the Academy; the paper was published in 1831 (Notice of a new indigenous heath found in Cunnamara. *Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy* **16**: 127-128).
17. W. J. Hooker. 1842. *The British flora*. London (see Nelson 1979).
18. The manuscript tails off at this point.

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White-flowered *Bruckenthalia*; its name in *Erica*.

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Oliver (1996) explained, in last year's *Yearbook*, the position of *Bruckenthalia* within the Ericoideae, and indicated that it was impossible to maintain it as a distinct genus. *Bruckenthalia* should be reduced to synonymy with *Erica*, when the name of its only species reverts to the original *Erica spiculifolia* Salisb.

Bruckenthalia is too useful and memorable a name to be abandoned completely, and I suggest that it should be retained as a handy everyday name (not printed in italics) for this particular heather, which is so distinctive.

White-flowered *Bruckenthalia* plants do not have a valid botanical name within the genus *Erica* although one published by McClintock (1984) exists within the now redundant genus *Bruckenthalia*; a new combination is necessary and is made here.

Seedlings from the original Carpathian clone have been raised and are also white-flowered. Thus there are now many potential clones within this form but none has been given a cultivar name.

Erica spiculifolia f. *albiflora* (D. C. McClintock) E. C. Nelson & D. C. McClintock **comb. nov.**

Basionym *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* f. *albiflora* D. C. McClintock, *The plantsman* **6** (1984): 191. Holotypus: ex horto, Sedlonov, Czechoslovakia [planta ex monte Retezat, E. Carpathians Roumania], J. Grulich & J. Chmelar, 1 June 1983. **BM**.

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OLIVER, E. G. H. 1996. The position of *Bruckenthalia* versus *Erica*. *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1996**:6.



[A. W. Jones]

***Erica* 'Heaven Scent'**

This cultivar was sent from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to Maxwell & Beale on 16 March 1949. There is no record of how or when it came to Kew. Maxwell & Beale introduced it as *E. verticillata* Forsk. non Berg. in 1951. It continued to be offered, under a variety of names, by a few nurserymen. Its popularity grew as people recognised its virtues, and now it is more widely available. Mrs Cherry Turpin named it 'Heaven Scent', a reference to its strong perfume, in 1990.

The long (to 35cm), slender, tapering racemes can lead the casual observer to mistake it for *Calluna vulgaris*. While there are no obvious morphological differences from *E. manipuliflora*, 'Heaven Scent' is a hybrid between that species and *E. vagans*.¹ I base this assertion on the following facts. Like all interspecific hybrids of European *Erica* species, 'Heaven Scent' is almost totally sterile. The shape of its ovaries, which resemble those of the artificial hybrid 'Valerie Griffiths', more closely resemble those of *E. vagans* than those of *E. manipuliflora*. It comes into bloom, with 'Valerie Griffiths', in mid-July, almost a month before the earliest *E. manipuliflora* cultivars. Indeed, it has largely faded before 'Ian Cooper' shows its flowers. In a botanic garden the parent species would have ample opportunity to cross-pollinate, so this may have arisen spontaneously at Kew.

A. W. Jones

¹ JONES, A. W. 1987. Notes on *Erica manipuliflora*, *E. vagans* and their hybrids. *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **3** (5): 51-57.

Heathers in the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, Hampshire.

M. W. BUFFIN

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Sir Harold Hillier, an avid collector of rare and unusual plants and a world renowned plantsman, moved to Jermyn's House in 1953. There, released from the burden of growing plants on Winchester chalk, he achieved his lifetime ambition to create in a single garden one of the most complete collection of hardy, woody plants in the temperate world. As President of Hillier Nurseries, Sir Harold used his international connections to purchase, exchange, and trade plant material from all over the world. In 1977, to secure the long term future of the Hillier Arboretum and its collections, Sir Harold placed the gardens in trust to Hampshire County Council. Today the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum covers some 166 acres, holding eleven National Collections, and some of Britain's rarest garden plants.

The earliest record of heathers being sold by Hillier Nurseries, dates back to the early 1920s, although they were probably selling such plants earlier than that. In their 1925 autumn catalogue from the West Hill Nurseries, they offered *Erica arborea*, *E. arborea* 'Alpina', *E. australis*, many *E. carnea* cultivars, *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea* cultivars, *E. lusitanica*, *E. x darleyensis*, *E. tetralix*, *E. vagans*, and cultivars of *Calluna vulgaris* and *Daboecia cantabrica*.

When Sir Harold moved to Jermyn's House he began planting on the lighter Bagshot Green sands, and created the scree gardens, dwarf conifer collection, the famous Magnolia Avenue. The site was once planted as a dwarf rhododendron collection, but in later years was transformed into the present Heather Garden.

The total area covered by the Heather Garden is half an acre, and is normally entered from the Magnolia Avenue, via a long grass border that runs through the centre of the Heather Garden. In its original design, the pathways had become somewhat awkward, and required re-working so that they were aesthetically pleasing, and flowed throughout the design.

In 1995, this area of the Gardens required renovation, as the drought highlighted the many problems of cultivating plants on Bagshot Green Sand. By late Autumn 1995, the decision was reached to redesign and replant the Heather Garden. In doing so the area was also re-modelled, and the circulation flow improved.

For the new design to survive any future years of drought some innovative solutions had to be found to the problems of growing heathers on the free-draining soil. Such improvements also had to consider the increasing demands for staff time elsewhere in the Gardens.

The area occupied by the Heather Garden was relatively flat and to add interest the soil levels of the beds were altered to create hollows and mounds. The heather beds were then widened by two metres in all directions, allowing an increased planting area, so that larger drifts of plants could be used. The design also sought to attract visitors into the Heather Garden by strategically placing plants with striking foliage in prominent places. This tactic was used at the junctions and corners of the beds, to invite visitors into and then guide them throughout the area.

Once the planting plan was complete, the next task was to tackle the problem of moisture retention. The Gardens adopted a tried and tested method from the RHS Garden, Wisley. They dug well-rotted manure deep into the soil using a tractor-mounted digger, resulting in a deeper profile of water retention which would act like an underground water storage tank, and allow for deeper rooted heathers. Care was taken to avoid any risk of the newly planted heathers coming into contact with the manure by using a top dressing of recycled, peat-based potting compost, supplied free-of-charge by a local nursery.

To reduce surface evaporation and to reduce labour commitments the Gardens then used a ground cover mat, Plantex® manufactured by DuPont, to cover the surface of the beds prior to planting. This porous, geotextile fabric allows water and air to penetrate while the individual fibres of polypropylene which are thermally bonded, form a strong, impenetrable barrier to most weeds and grasses. Plantex works by suppressing weeds, by creating a physical barrier, and when combined with a mulch covering it can effectively reduce surface evaporation. Plantex has been widely used at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Wakehurst Place, but is more commonly



Fig.1. Garden staff planting the heathers through Plantex, February 1996

associated with tree planting and large scale landscape projects. The heathers were planted through the Plantex by cutting a small X in the material, and they were also planted slightly proud, to compensate for the mulch covering (Fig. 1).

On completion of the bed preparation, the Gardens opted for a low tech, Leaky Pipe® irrigation system, that was fed from a newly installed 63 mm irrigation main. Leaky Pipe is manufactured using recycled car tyres. This system of flexible pipes is ideal for unusual bed designs, and as it is trickle irrigation, it is efficient. The ring main around the Heather Garden was installed by the Gardens staff, using 20 mm flexible irrigation main, and connected to every bed via a manual valve point. From here, header pipes were installed to connect to the Leaky Pipe system. At the connection point to the 63 mm mains supply, a geeka-type fitting allowed an in-line filter and pressure regulator to be included. Leaky Pipe® systems operate within a pressure range of 1.5 - 2 bar, and it is important that this pressure is stable.



Fig.2. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Robert Chapman' being irrigated by Leaky Pipe - Summer 1996. Picture also shows Plantex Mulch Mat, and mulch covering.

The beauty of the system is, that firstly, it is simple to install, and secondly, it efficiently supplies water close to the root zones of plants (Fig 2 & 3). The Leaky Pipe system was laid on top of the Plantex and spaced at 50 cm intervals throughout the beds. As this was the first time such a system had been used at the Gardens, we decided to be cautious and not bury it, as repairs would have meant lifting the mulch mat and heathers. However, only minor coupling repairs have been necessary to the 20 mm ring main, and not to the Leaky Pipe system.

Once planting was complete the mulch mat and Leaky Pipe system was covered and hidden by 30 cm (about 1 ft) of fine grade, composted bark mulch, reducing the evaporation factor even further. The mulch was supplied by Capability Brown Ltd.

The selection of the heathers was probably the easiest task to deal with. To create an all-year-round attraction, heathers were selected from those recommended by the Heather Society, and the RHS Award of Garden Merit scheme.



Fig.3. Capillary action of Leaky Pipe irrigation - Summer 1996.



Fig.4. The stark white stem of *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* contrasts with the red foliage of Japanese blood grass (*Imperata cylindrica* 'Red Baron')

The beds were planted with foliage and flowering cultivars of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica carnea*, *E. ciliaris*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tetralix*, *E. vagans*, *E. x watsonii* and *Daboecia cantabrica*. This also gave the Gardens the opportunity to include some of the more recent introductions such as *Erica x williamsii* 'Gold Button', *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alexandra', 'Alicia' and 'Anette', and *Erica* 'Valerie Griffiths'. These were inter-planted using dwarf conifers and ornamental grasses.

This was further enhanced by incorporating white-stemmed birches (*Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii*), dwarf conifers, and plants with attractive winter bark, such as *Myrtus luma*. The heathers were planted for striking foliage to create miniature focal points. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Wickwar Flame', 'Robert Chapman', 'Beoley Gold', 'Golden Feather' and 'Winter Chocolate', *Erica cinerea* 'Golden Drop', *E. carnea* 'Foxhollow', 'Barry Sellers', and *E. x williamsii* 'Gold Button', were used in bold drifts of plants in numbers between 30 and 60 at a time, and strategically planted throughout the design. These were



Fig.5. View across the Heather Garden during Autumn 1996. *Picea pungens* 'Glauca Pendula' dominates the bed, and is contrasted by *Erica* 'Valerie Griffiths'.

then inter-planted with a variety of heathers so that contrast in both foliage and flowering time could be displayed. Plants were supplied by Windlesham Court Nursery, Roger Allport Nursery, and Blooms of Bressingham, as either 7 cm, 9 cm, or 1 litre sizes.

The project was completed during March 1996, and now some eight months on, the Heather Garden is flourishing (Fig 5), and although many of the plants were spaced 50cm apart, the gaps are starting to disappear. Small areas have been re-planted, as the conditions during the spring were particularly wet and a few plants succumbed to this. While the unorthodox methods adopted during the preparation of this area have paid off, one must off-set the time saved in maintenance of such an area against the time involved in laying Plantex®, and planting through it, which can be three times greater than normal. One unforeseen problem was that of moles. They seem to tunnel under the Plantex, and tunnel as normal, but on trying to reach the surface they opt for the 'soft option' and create their hills through the holes cut into the membrane. In areas where

moles are active, this could lead to the death of many plants.

This Winter (1996-1997), it is hoped to develop the site of the old Rose Garden (2.5 acres) into the largest purpose-designed Winter Garden in Britain, which will also contain a wide variety of heathers.

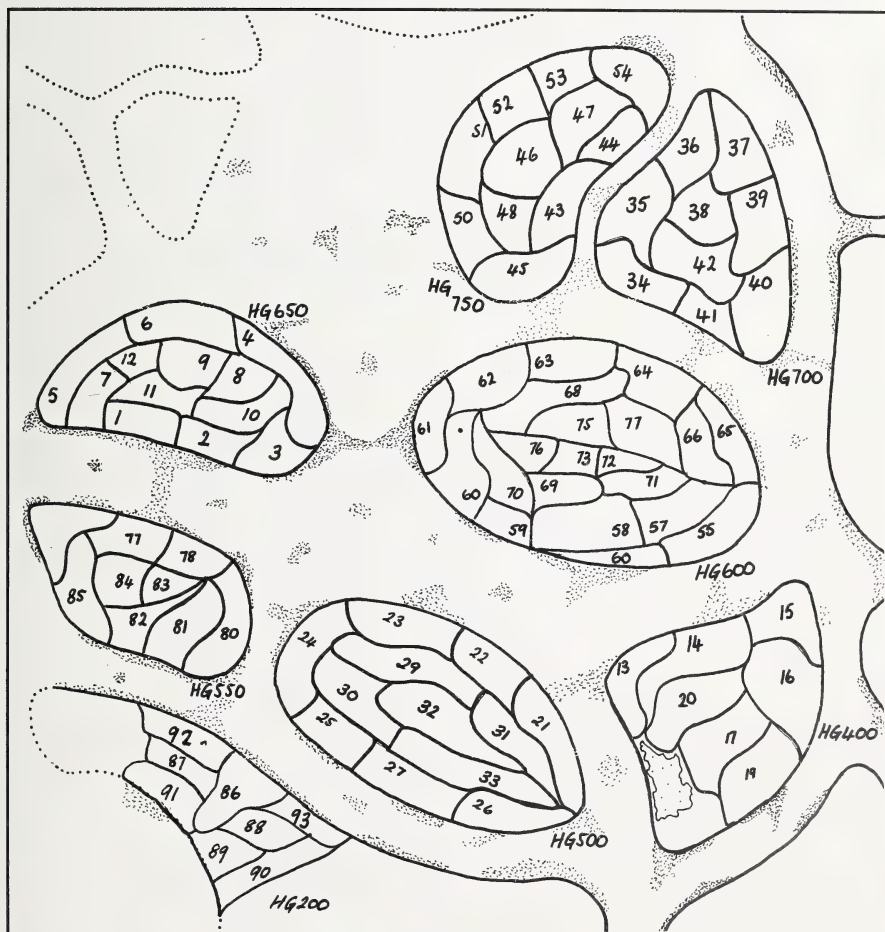




Fig.6. Plan of Heather Garden 1996

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum are open 10.30 am to 6 pm from April to October, and 10.30 am to 5 pm (or dusk if earlier) from November to March. The Gardens are closed on public and bank holidays over Christmas.

THE SIR HAROLD HILLIER GARDENS AND ARBORETUM HEATHER GARDEN PLANTING LIST 1996

 = RHS Award of Garden Merit † = Heather Society recommended cultivar

BED HG200

86. *Calluna* 'Spook' 
87. *Calluna* 'Alicia'
88. *Calluna* 'Anette'
89. *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Rainbow'
90. *E. terminalis* 'Thelma Woolner'
91. *E. x watsonii* 'Dawn'
92. *E. carnea* 'Challenger'
93. *Calluna* 'Alba Rigida'

BED HG400

13. *E. carnea* 'Golden Starlet' 
14. *E. cinerea* 'Alba Minor' 
15. *Calluna* 'Joy Vanstone'  †
16. *E. x darleyensis* 'Ghost Hills'  †
17. *E. erigena* 'Irish Dusk'  †
19. *Calluna* 'Allegro' 
20. *E. erigena* 'W.T. Rackliff'  †

BED HG500

21. *E. carnea* 'Barry Sellers'
22. *E. carnea* 'Pink Spangles'  †
23. *Erica* 'Valerie Griffiths'
24. *E. vagans* 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell'  †
25. *E. x stuartii* 'Irish Lemon'  †
26. *E. x williamsii* 'P. D. Williams' 
27. *E. carnea* 'Foxhollow'  †
28. *Calluna* 'Con Brio'
29. *E. carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby'  †
30. *E. x darleyensis* 'Arthur Johnson' †
31. *Calluna* 'Dark Beauty'
32. *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection' 
33. *Calluna* 'Beoley Gold'  †

BED HG550

77. *E. cinerea* 'Fiddler's Gold' 
78. *E. ciliaris* 'Corfe Castle'  †
80. *E. x darleyensis* 'George Rendall'
81. *Calluna* 'Sunrise'
82. *Calluna* 'Spring Cream'  †
83. *Calluna* 'Golden Feather'
85. *Calluna* 'Dark Star' 

BED HG600

55. *E. vagans* 'Pyrenees Pink' †
56. *E. carnea* 'Praecox Rubra'  †
57. *Calluna* 'Easter-bonfire'
58. *Calluna* 'Tib' †
59. *E. vagans* 'Valerie Proudley'  †
60. *Calluna* 'Mousehole'
61. *E. carnea* 'Sunshine Rambler' 
62. *Calluna* 'Winter Chocolate'
63. *E. tetralix* 'Pink Star'  †
64. *E. x williamsii* 'Gold Button'
65. *E. carnea* 'December Red'
66. *Calluna* 'Serlei Aurea'  †
68. *E. tetralix* 'Con Underwood' 
69. *E. carnea* 'Westwood Yellow'
70. *E. cinerea* 'Glencairn'
71. *E. x darleyensis* 'Darley Dale'
72. *E. erigena* 'Superba' †
73. *E. cinerea* 'Golden Drop'
75. *E. cinerea* 'Katinka'
76. *Calluna* 'Flamingo'
77. *Calluna* 'Spring Cream'  †

BED HG650

1. *E. carnea* 'Vivellii' 🏆
2. *Calluna* 'Robert Chapman' 🏆 †
3. *Calluna* 'County Wicklow' 🏆 †
4. *E. cinerea* 'Stephen Davis' 🏆
5. *E. vagans* 'Lyonesse' 🏆
6. *E. carnea* 'Ann Sparkes' 🏆 †
7. *E. umbellata*
8. *Calluna* 'Wickwar Flame' 🏆
9. *Calluna* 'Alexandra'
10. *E. x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' †
11. *E. x darleyensis* 'Kramer's Rote' 🏆
12. *E. manipuliflora*

BED HG700

34. *Calluna* 'H. E. Beale'
35. *E. x darleyensis* 'Jack H. Brummage'
36. *E. carnea* 'King George' †
37. *E. cinerea* 'Golden Drop'
38. *Calluna* 'Firefly'
39. *E. carnea* 'Loughrigg' 🏆
40. *Calluna* 'Melanie'
41. *Calluna* 'Boskoop'
42. *E. erigena* 'Brightness'

BED HG750

43. *E. carnea* 'Adrienne Duncan' 🏆 †
44. *Calluna* 'Blazeaway'
45. *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' 🏆 †
46. *Calluna* 'Annemarie'
47. *E. x darleyensis* 'White Perfection' 🏆
48. *E. x darleyensis* 'Mary Helen'
50. *E. tetralix* 'Ruth's Gold'
51. *E. mackaiana* 'Dr. Ronald Gray'
52. *E. carnea* 'Aurea' †
53. *E. carnea* 'Springwood Pink'
54. *E. x stuartii* 'Irish Orange'

Editor's Note

†

The Heather Society list of recommended cultivars is currently under review because of recent introductions

The Heather Society 1996

President's foreword

In common with many similar societies, our membership does not grow: the remedy lies in members' hands. Our sister (why is the usual word "sister" and not "brother"?) society *Ericultura* came within a whisker of having to be wound up. Its membership had fallen too and no-one seemed prepared to take over the Presidency which Paul Pacilly had held for so long. However, at the last moment, our member Mr D. de Bruijn of Boskoop is to succeed him. This is a welcome relief, coming so soon after the 25th anniversary celebrations. These included a visit over here, where I was able to celebrate with them with Buck's Fizz.

By contrast we are very fortunate in the hard working members who look after us. David Small is a tireless Chairman, his wife Anne an exemplary Administrator. Pamela Lee is in her twentieth year as Secretary. Allen Hall is a careful Treasurer, as well as having to run the Southern Group. Bert Jones is a scrupulous Registrar; Daphne Everett the enterprising editor of our *Bulletin*, and Charles Nelson the professional in charge of the *Yearbook*. And how well Diane Jones and Phil Joyner ran this year's conference (pp 49-52).

The sad news was the death of Pat Turpin who had chaired us for 14 years. He was very able and widely known. An appreciation of him begins this *Yearbook* (pp 1-4).

A happy feature of the year was the visit paid by no fewer than twelve of our members across the world to California at the invitation of another sister organisation, the North American Heather Society, where they were warmly entertained (pp 53-58). This was a good cementing of friendships, especially because many of their members crossed the Atlantic last year to join us in Ireland.

David McClintock

**26th Annual Conference
Dillington House, near Ilminster, Somerset
6–9 September 1996**

A weekend of several parts

Obedying instructions not to arrive before 4pm on Friday afternoon, many delegates decided to make the lounges of the nearby Shrubbery Hotel the venue for their initial meeting. Of course, this was inevitable with committee and Council meetings being held there that afternoon. Whilst the Council deliberated Society matters, others enjoyed enthusiastic accounts from the 'Energetic Dozen' about their visit to the North American Heather Society's conference and field trip in California [see pp. 53-58].

Throughout the evening everyone gradually found their way from one end or the other of the venue's grounds, parked and registered at both desks! They were then conducted to assigned rooms, or directed to accommodation in Ilminster. While waiting for dinner, old acquaintances were renewed and new ones formed in the comfort of Dillington House.

On the first evening, following a welcome from Diane Jones, the Conference organiser, Robin Bush (who will be well known to all Time Team addicts) gave a very interesting and highly entertaining talk on Somersetshire subjects; he exposed historical 'truths' and displayed his Mastermind-knowledge of history's dates. Just the thing to start the weekend – and many had the same thought, "If only history lessons at school had been like that!"

Next morning, after a hearty breakfast (which was early enough for our energetic Chairman to regret not having a fuller programme to take advantage of the extra time), the day began with a talk by Ron Cleevely, who took a brief look at the history of botanical illustration using published figures of heathers and rhododendrons. Neither a botanist, nor an artist, his knowledge was derived from an interest in the older botanical books found in the main libraries of the UK. Among the points he made was that the 'essence of a plant' can still be portrayed more effectively by a combination of botanical awareness and artistic skill, rather than by photography.

A busy morning followed, as delegates participated in three workshops that allowed them to contribute or gain information on

heather species and cultivars. And, best of all, to admire or covet the superb plants provided from various members of Council for each of these exercises. Among the most notable plants were the dainty cross between *Erica spiculifolia* (Bruckenthalia) and *E. carnea*, *E. x williamsii* and the bud-blooming *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alexandra'. Just observing and handling such fine examples was sufficient reason for attending the conference. It was also good to see superb specimens of several other long-established cultivars.

In the propagation workshop, Daphne Everett demonstrated several methods of taking cuttings on a table liberally bestrewn with potting compost! Participants were too busy asking questions to use her practical advice then and there. Elsewhere, others were given advice by our experts on choosing heathers and told (on paper) how to recognise the different species; or given an explanation of the process of registering a new cultivar if they were ever lucky enough to discover one! It seemed that the registration task was the most confusing and daunting requiring everyone to delve deeply for forgotten botanical terms, or recollect how to use a hand lens.

Of course, we were sustained through these sessions by an interval for refreshments, conversation, or hasty revision. Lunch, a picnic grabbed underneath the arch before boarding, had to be taken 'on the hoof' while in the coach. It was never quite clear just how the division of the delegates was achieved that Saturday afternoon, but amoebic fission occurred, each party taking its nucleic quota of Council members as leaders.

A large group disembarked at Shapwick, an area of the Somerset Levels being managed by English Nature, to see the flora and fauna – but with very little heather! The various problems involved in restoring these wetlands and woodlands were explained during a long walk, on which a replica of the 'Sweet Track' – constructed so that Neolithic hunters could cross the marshy ground – was seen. A smaller group, who elected to be 'safe' and not walk too far, remained on the coach and visited the site at Westhay belonging to the Somerset Wildlife Trust where they, at least, saw some heathers!

To ensure that no one died of thirst on the short journey back through the attractive old Somerset capital of Somerton, everyone met in the car park of the local garden centre for coffee and tea carried on the coach. Inevitably, some sloped off to curb their bodily

or horticultural hungers by buying either ice-cream or irresistible plants in the garden centre. Others, either just curious or seeking a greater intellectual challenge, walked across to the Peat Moors Information Centre and learnt more about the region's natural history and archaeology. All this fresh air and a chilly wind ensured an appetite for a Dillington dinner. That evening another fascinating talk, this time on the history of heather by Daphne Everett, *Bulletin* editor, provided equally good measures of enlightenment and entertainment to end a rewarding day.

Breakfast sustained delegates during the lengthy agenda of the Annual General Meeting which, as the Chairman explained, had to be conducted slightly differently owing to the establishment during the year of a Steering Committee to handle the Society's more immediate business. Matters were soon dealt with, and these proceedings were remarkable for the clear presentation of the Society's accounts and financial situation by the Treasurer, which earned him a spontaneous round of applause.

Unusually, no one needed to be roused afterwards, and the next talk, the first of the day's 'double bills', ensured that we were all wide awake for the Conference photograph which was posed in the attractive grounds of this sixteenth century manor house. Two wardens from the Quantock Hills, Tim Russell and Chris Edwards, alternately gave us accounts of their individual involvements in managing and restoring areas of this SSI. They alarmed everyone by beginning with a slide of burning heathland and ending with a warning about heathland ticks and Lyme Disease. By using a series of overhead projections they demonstrated the interesting relationship between medieval farm sites and the present-day occurrence of bracken.

Another coach journey and picnic bag-lunch en route ended with a drive up the steep chestnut-lined road to Staple Plain above Quantoxhead. A crocodile of ramblers climbed the path through the colourful 'maritime' heath of dwarf gorse (*Ulex gallii*), *Calluna*, *Erica tetralix*, *E. cinerea* and the bristle-leaved bent grass. Scouting around in one of the burnt areas, interest was aroused by finding a number of heathers plants sprouting from the base – a response that is triggered only when they are burnt. After reaching the top of Beacon Hill and enjoying the view across the Bristol Channel and along the coast in both directions, further fission of the party took place. One

group descended back to the coach and the other, guided by the two wardens, continued along the ridge eventually descending to search (successfully!) for cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*) which grows in a limited area with bilberry (*V. myrtillus*). We learnt that it was only worth eating the tasty blue berries of the latter – in bygone times these berries were an important source of vitamins during the winter. *En route* the group saw a large area of heathland that had regenerated from the natural seed-bank after a controlled burn carried out four years earlier as part of the management programme. An instructive afternoon on the techniques and problems of heathland management, in good weather with ample, colourful heather sites to satisfy everyone, whetted appetites for the final dinner.

A full carousel meant that the evening's 'Open Forum' was devoted to slides. Daphne and Maurice Everett began proceedings by showing scenes of the recent trip to America by members invited to attend the recent North American Heather Society Conference in California. Despite limited rainfall, the climate is suitable for heathers as, sustained by morning mists, they grow to twice their British size and flower profusely. Among other contributors, Allen Hall showed slides of the propagation workshop held at Denbeigh Heathers earlier in the year, and Eileen Petterssen provided views of heather in Norway.

Everyone felt that the venue was superb, everything possible being done to ensure the comfort and convenience of delegates, plus enjoyable food. An interesting and eventful occasion that was only marred by the sudden illness of our Registrar Bert Jones, who had to be taken to hospital on the Sunday morning, but who, we are pleased to report, soon recovered. Possibly the only regrets were that we were unable to use the opportunity to find the birthplace of Alfred H. Bowerman (Chairman 1971-1977) of Knott Oak Farm, near Ilminster, and (of the more adventurous) that the resident ghost of the headless lady had stayed away during the weekend.

Ron Cleevely

Assistant Editor,

with contributions from

Daphne Everett, Phil Joyner & Eileen B. Petterssen

North American Heather Society Pre-conference Tour and 1996 Conference

Heather in the Redwoods

Following the highly successful pre-conference field trip to Connemara last year, where we were joined by so many of our friends from North America, some of our members felt we should reciprocate when the North American Heather Society announced their Californian tour and conference in August 1996. Little did we realise, beforehand, how much organisation and dedication by a vast army of helpers was going to make their Tour and Conference one that will be remembered for a lifetime.

The pre-conference tour started at San Francisco Airport precisely at 11.30 am. This was no mean feat. Eight of the British contingent (twelve in all) had had an exhausting drive around southern California for some days before. Others had just flown in from the UK, eastern USA, and British Columbia, whereas the main coach party had left Eureka in northern California at 4.30 am picking up enthusiasts along the way.

We quickly learned that there was not going to be a chance for a quiet snooze, as within minutes of leaving the airport, we stopped at a motorway rest stop for lunch. This was a marvellous picnic provided by the H.E.R.E. (= Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire) catering committee, the forerunner of the superb picnic lunches provided on each day of the tour. The Rest Stop was privately run by a wonderful gentleman with a magnificent long white beard who made us feel we were in a time warp and had been whisked back to the Californian Gold Rush. Here we formally planted a superb specimen of *Erica canaliculata* 'Boscaweneana'. This cultivar has been lost to cultivation in the UK. I had found a plant on a previous trip to California and sent cutting material back home. These rooted but when they bloomed I found no discernible difference between the Californian plant and the species currently available in the UK.

The next point on the tour was a conducted visit to Filoli Gardens. With its beautiful Georgian revival house and the magnificent gardens, Filoli is a rare and historically important example of an early 1900s estate. We were not the only ones to think so, as it was being used as a film set at the time of our visit.

Then we made our way to Santa Cruz for an overnight stop. but before we could settle for the night, we were taken to the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum to see the magnificent outdoor collection of Cape heaths and the vast *Protea* gardens. We saw many humming birds sipping nectar from the flowers of the Cape heaths. Although I made many attempts to photograph them, they were far too quick. Some of the Cape heaths were nearly 2 m high and were still in full flower. There were many shades of *Erica baueria*, the bridal heath, from white through clear pink, mauve-pink to an interesting dark shade which I had never seen before, not even as an illustration. There was a red flowered form of *E. curviflora* just beginning to fade, which, although common in the wild in South Africa is absent from the UK where only the yellow flowered form is available. Amongst others in flower was *E. mammosa* ‘Jubilee’, a particularly striking red flowered form, and the orange *E. annectens*. Perhaps the most interesting plant, although not in flower, was a glabrous form of *E. cerinthoides* found as a seedling at the Arboretum. I find the normal, very hairy form of the fire heath rather difficult to keep through the winter, no doubt due to our rather damp climate. Sadly, the Arboretum is suffering financial cut backs and was resorting to selling plants which was fortunate for me as I was able to purchase a plant of *E. cerinthoides* ‘Santa Cruz Scarlet’. I knew I could not bring the plant back to the UK but it accompanied us for the rest of the trip before it was cut to the ground for cutting material.

The next day we had a two-hour visit to Nurseryman’s Exchange, a gigantic nursery complex at Half Moon Bay. It was indeed an honour to be there as they rarely receive visitors. It was only after Dee Daneri had provided them with a full list of tour members that we were we allowed to visit. For me, two hours was far too short a time to visit this famous nursery. It is the home of *E. persoluta* (as it is known throughout the USA) – in fact this is *E. quadrangularis*, another Cape heath that is used in a similar way to *E. gracilis* in Europe. At this nursery they had bred various coloured strains of this heather and successfully patented some of the cultivars. Although not in flower until March, we did see several acres being grown using an interesting double pot method.

From this most southerly point of our tour, we headed north to the famous Rod McClellan Orchid Nursery. In our short visit, we

only had time to learn about some of the 25,000 orchid species and see how orchid hybrids are grown from seed. We had just a glimpse of the orchid maternity ward and day-care centre before boarding the coach once more.

A short drive took us to the Strybing Arboretum in the heart of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens funded by a bequest from Helene Strybing, opened in 1940. It was further developed in the 1960s to focus on geographic collections including eastern Australian, Cape Province and California. We did see some poor specimens of European *Erica* and the Cape heaths were not as impressive as those at Santa Cruz.

Dee Daneri had devised a scheme of fines for those late back to the coach. This had been put into practice from the beginning and by the time we reached Strybing, the H.E.R.E. were quite well off and we all feared being late! Anyhow, on our way out of the gardens, we came upon a magnificent specimen of *E. arborea*, 6 to 7 m high and some 15 m across. It was easy to walk underneath to examine the magnificent trunk and provided ample opportunity for photo calls. Thus we were locked into the gardens, had to re-trace our steps to find our way out and, of course, were somewhat late back to the coach. Dee Daneri was in our party and graciously paid our fines. Strangely, we did not hear quite so much about fines after that.

After crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, we stopped at Rohnert Park overnight before embarking on a drive north to the highlight of the tour - Jim and Beverly Thompson's garden at Manchester.

This garden is situated close to the sea and although it rarely gets rain between May and September, they do have many foggy days due to the cold current that runs along the Californian coast. It was such a day when we visited. Jim Thompson greeted us and before we entered his garden he pointed out the vast areas of grassland that surrounds his property and the risk of fire it presents. To combat that, he has planted a firebreak of *Santolina*. He has also planted a few heathers outside his property to assess whether the local deer are partial to them. To date they seem to prefer native vegetation.

As you enter this garden, you are presented with a kaleidoscope of colour. Small paths weave through the heather beds which are built up at several levels so that some of the heathers are nearly at

eye height. It was clear from the start that heathers are very happy in this part of California growing, I would say, twice as fast as they do in Europe. Jim's garden is only ten years old but has the maturity of one twice that age. Jim has designed his garden so you cannot see the whole garden at once; in fact you would need many hours there to ensure you had not missed a part of it. It is sheltered from the prevailing winds by a belt of *Pinus contorta*, planted by Beverly, which gives an attractive backdrop to the heather beds and shelter to a few Cape heaths which, in full flower, seemed perfectly at home.

Jim Thompson's garden is not all heathers and has some fascinating 'extras'. A Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) over 28 m tall, planted by the original settlers to the area, is one of the largest in America. In it he has built a Victorian-style tree house, complete with windows and door reached by a tiny staircase. Around another corner is the trunk of a black oak which has been peppered by woodpeckers with holes in which to store acorns for the winter – To reinforce the message, Jim has carved a couple of wooden woodpeckers and hung them on the trunk.

In 1991, Jim found a yellow-green sport on *Calluna vulgaris* 'Long White' which he propagated. He planted the sport near his front fence, and it was there we saw for the first time, 'Fortyniner Gold', a heather which we have brought to the UK as cutting material and we hope to introduce it here.

Reluctantly, the party moved on to the Heritage House Garden set in beautiful coastal scenery. A wander around the nursery revealed the so-called Mexican heather, *Cuphea hyssopifolia*, as well as a few real heathers more familiar back home.

We moved on to our hotel overlooking Noyo Harbour where we just had sufficient time to freshen up before embarking, once again, for an evening out at a barbecue held in our honour by the California North Coast Chapter of the NAHS. We met some local growers and gardeners, and exchanged know-how well into the evening.

Early the next day we visited Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden, the original inspiration for Jim Thompson. This garden was founded in 1961 by a retired nurseryman. In 1992 the entire property was purchased by the State for use as a public botanic garden. It boasts a number of plant collections including tender species of *Rhododendron*, succulents, camellias and lilies as well as heathers. Here there was plenty to see but I, for one, never managed to get

beyond the heather garden where we saw some of the cultivars originating in the USA such as *Calluna vulgaris* 'Corbett's Red' (quite similar to 'Darkness') and *C. vulgaris* 'Red Wings', another more vigorous, crimson flowered cultivar. The Local Group had put on an impressive display of dried heather arrangements which will be remembered for a long while.

The final stop of the tour was to Founder's Grove, deep in the heart of redwood country. Founders Grove is dedicated to the founders of the Save-the-Redwoods League set up in 1917. The League now protects 170,000 acres of redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) forest. We stood in the forest, in quiet amazement, looking at some of the tallest trees in the world. Redwood forest has seven times the biomass of a tropical rain forest, and is home to 1700 species of plants and animals. Yet again we had to be pulled away to complete our journey to Eureka, arriving just in time for the start of the NAHS 1996 Conference.

The Friday evening was spent getting acquainted with those just attending the Conference, some of whom were familiar faces from our own conferences.

In the foyer of the Eureka Inn, the Heather Enthusiasts of the Redwood Empire had laid out a wide range of young plants for sale. I found several cultivars not available in the UK, and installed them in our very smart suite in this quaint hotel until it was time to leave for home. I shudder to think what the maid thought when she came to clean each morning.

The Conference started with a delightful talk by Art Dome on photographing heathers and heather gardens. He approached his subject with down-to-earth practical advice, reinforced with some superb slides. Those who have attended our Conferences have had opportunities to see some of his close-up work but you will not have seen slides of two new cultivars, a double yellow and a blue-and-white striped heather which he has developed using a little photographic trickery, I suspect.

Donald Mackay, editor of *Heather news*, gave the next talk on the history of heather. During his talk, he refuted a number of widely held beliefs on the use of heather. He claimed that it was never used for making heather ale nor for thatching cottages. A number in the audience may not have agreed with him but it made a stimulating talk none the less!

During the first part of the afternoon, we were left to our own devices while the Council of the NAHS held its AGM. Bert and Diane Jones, Anne and myself were taken to the site of a new botanic garden being planned in the grounds of the College of the Redwoods, to examine the site to assess its suitability for the first National Collection of heathers in North America. The site naturally faces south-west, the soil pH is less than 6 and irrigation could be provided if necessary. We selected a particularly suitable area away from trees and have recommended to the President of H.E.R.E. and to the Humboldt Botanical Garden Foundation that cloned material from the UK National Collections is used for planting.

In mid-afternoon, we boarded the coach for a tour of heather gardens to the north of Eureka. Again we saw some attractive heather gardens in which young heathers were growing twice as fast as in Europe. This was a feature common to all the gardens we visited and I wonder whether the lifetime of a Californian heather garden will only be half as long as here. As we toured these gardens, we sometimes came across cultivars wrongly named, *Erica ciliaris* 'Maweana' and 'Mrs. C. H. Gill' were 'reversed' in nearly all of the gardens. Occasionally, we discovered a new cultivar name and always we were allowed to collect cutting material which was packed dry in a sealed polythene bag with a pellet of damp tissue paper for the long journey home. Another feature of this tour was *Erica lusitanica* growing along the road sides for many miles which must be very attractive in early spring. It did, however, serve as a reminder of the dangers of allowing a species to escape from gardens, and as heathers become more widely available, one wonders about the possible changes to the Californian landscape.

The evening was spent at Merryman's Beach House, a private restaurant on the beach, where the group photograph was taken and I had to 'sing' for my supper by giving a talk on the mysteries of *Erica mackaiana* and its subspecies *andevalensis*.

The final day started early with a detailed discussion among nursery owners on how to make heathers more widely known and available in the USA. This before-breakfast meeting ranged over many topics and I was struck by the enthusiasm and entrepreneurial ability of those taking part. Bert Jones, the International Registrar for heathers, was the last speaker at the Conference. He had the unenviable task of explaining how, why and where heathers are

registered and named. It is a difficult subject to tackle as there are so few visual aids one can use. Bert did an admirable job and was much complimented on his approach.

The afternoon tour of heather gardens to the south of Eureka started with a visit to the Victorian village of Ferndale, a collection of remarkable wooden houses culminating in the world renowned Gingerbread Mansion. Once again we saw some very attractive gardens, in which were beautiful examples of Jim Thompson's 'Fortyniner Gold', and the Heather Heaven Nursery which has 400 cultivars and offers the largest range of heathers in California.

It was fitting that the last heather garden we saw was that of Dee Daneri, which was the starting point of interest in heathers that has spread throughout Humboldt County and beyond. Dee has been a regular visitor to our Conferences over the past few years, taking back cuttings to build up the largest collection in California. Dee was the founder of Heather Heaven. The lovely raised beds are surrounded by a wide variety of native and rare plants in a landscape setting. That was not all – we were greeted by a small ensemble playing music, while we wined, dined and walked around this lovely garden in the Californian sun.

The final speeches, emotional at times, were made over dinner at the nearby Golf and Country Club where even the wild deer were caddies for the local golfers!

No report of this remarkable tour and conference would be complete without a few words on the meticulous detail with which this event was organised. On the coach, we were often given presents, a little notepad, pressed heathers, interesting stories pertaining to heather and even our lunch bags were decorated with a *Daboecia* motif. During the conference, we were handed a comprehensive programme of events and each day further detail on the gardens we were going to visit. It took a team of 46 to make this possible, ably chaired by Dee Daneri to whom we are much indebted, for making our trip to California a truly memorable one.

David Small

Chairman, The Heather Society

BOOK REVIEW & RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THOMPSON, D. B. A., HESTER, A. J. & USHER, M. B. (editors). 1995. *Heaths and moorland: cultural landscapes*. Pp xvi, 400 + colour plates. £65. ISBN 0-11-495180-2. HMSO, Edinburgh.

Professor Charles Gimingham and *Calluna vulgaris* are almost synonymous, as every student of botany and ecology in Great Britain and Ireland soon learns. He published its biological flora as long ago as 1960 (*Journal of ecology* **48**: 455-483). The colourful frontispiece to this excellent book appropriately shows him on the Muir of Dinnet standing in knee-high *Calluna* in full bloom, a solitary figure in a purple landscape, the archetypal Scottish heath.

Scottish Natural Heritage chose the theme 'Heaths and moorland: cultural heritage' for its second annual conference in August 1993 and thereby suitably celebrated Charles Gimingham's 70th birthday. The proceedings of that conference, a series of excellent research reports, form the contents of this hefty book. There are 34 chapters, as well as a foreword by Magnus Magnusson. The topics range from an overview, by Gimingham, of ecological change in heaths and moorland, to the 'imminent' threat of heath destruction by deposition of atmospheric nitrogen, and from heaths as habitats for whinchats to the longevity of *Calluna* seeds. Indeed it is difficult briefly to summarize the contents, which includes papers with zoological themes (red deer, invertebrates, grouse) as well as the monitoring and conservation of moorlands and heaths in Scotland.

I have to confess I have not read every paper, but I have sampled widely, if selectively; in any case, this is not a book to read in one session, but rather a reference work to be consulted when information on heaths is required. Part one begins with a short discussion of the application of the words 'heath' and 'moor', and there is a fascinating paper on 'People, perceptions and moorland' in which these words were used to explore our images of 'heathery land' – associated words given in reply ranged from heather (15 people only out of 46!) to lonely (5), peaceful (11), cold (4) and grouse (4). No-one mentioned honey, but at least 4000 years ago honey was being used to make mead on Rum and in Caithness and Fife. Yet honey bees only thrive in Scotland after the environment had been sufficiently modified by mankind – after the expansion of heather-dominated vegetation. Today, on a top quality heather moor, in an exceptionally good year, a single hive can yield 50 kilograms of honey, earning £175 per hectare.

I could go on, but there is so much in this book. Let it suffice to say that this handsome birthday present to Professor Gimingham is an invaluable, indeed essential book for ecologists and botanists working in heathery places in Great Britain and farther afield. Undoubtedly *Heaths and moorland: cultural landscapes* should be in every university library. For the 'ordinary' heather enthusiast it also contains much of interest but frankly the price is too high and the contents are too academic for me to recommend it as an essential purchase.

E. C. Nelson

- AICHELE, D. & SCHWEGLER, H. W. 1996.** *Die Blüten-pflanzen Mitteleuropas*. Franch-Kosmos. 5 volumes.
A fully illustrated, comprehensive record of every aspect of central European flowering plants. The first volume contains the history of botany and botanical illustration, with other accounts of every facet of botany and environmental ecology (Heiden pp 347-349). The Ericaceae are in vol. 3. "Nachtkerzengewächse bis Rötengewächse" under the heading of 'Heidekrautgewächse' (p. 466) with figures of *Erica herbacea* (Schnee-Heide), *E. tetralix* (Glocken-Heide), *E. cinerea* (Grau-Heide) and *Calluna vulgaris* (Bessen-Heide) on p. 479. [RJC]
- AKEROYD, J. 1996.** *Flowers of Britain and Ireland*. London, HarperCollins. £6.99
Excellent pocket guide to common wild flowers; includes ling and bell heather; well designed and robust, with colour photos.
- ALIBERTIS, A. 1994.** *The gorge of Samaria and its plants*. Heraklion, the author.
Pocket-guide to this famous tourist trail, and its plants (arranged alphabetically by family name); *Erica manipuliiflora* illustrated in colour (p. 76), with quaint English text including herbal lore. Invaluable for visitors to Crete.
- ANDREWS, L. 1996.** Testing lime tolerance – investigation of the aversion of ericaceous plants to lime. *The garden* **121** (10): 629-631.
This initial results of testing various heathers by growing them in soils with pH ranging from 4 to 8. A table summarises their growth and the extent of chlorosis that occurred. *Erica vagans* 'Mrs Maxwell' suffered the most drastic results. [RJC]
- ANONYMOUS. 1996.** Black sheep of the family do a fine job. *English nature* **27**: 10
Black-face Hebridean sheep wreak havoc on birch saplings and purple moor grass on Crowle Moor, Humberland, preferring them to heather shoots. [RJC]
- **1996.** Heathland regeneration. *English nature* **28**: 6-7.
The restoration of Goss Moor, Cornwall. [DMcC]
- **1996.** Heather collection. *Garden answers* **19** (2): 120.
- **1996.** High time for heathers. *Garden answers* (February): 10.
- **1996.** Bud-blooming heathers. *The garden* **121** (11): 680
Boosting *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alicia' & 'Anette'. [DMcC]
- **1996.** Lowdown on new heaths. *Gardeners world* (December): 6
Calluna 'Anette', 'Alexandra' and 'Alicia'.
- BANNISTER, P. A. 1996.** A re-discovered site for *Erica erigena* on Achill Island, Co. Mayo, Ireland. *Watsonia* **21** (1): 99-101.
Probably the same site discovered by Praeger over 90 years ago. The detailed location of a good colony. [DMcC]
- BARTHA, D. 1996.** Die ausgestorbenen und gefährdeten Baum und Straucharten in Mitteleuropa. *Mitt. d. Deutschen Dendrologis. en Gesellschaft, Ulmer*: 43-45.
- BENNETT, K. D. 1996.** Late-Quaternary vegetation dynamics of the Cairngorms. *Botanical journal of Scotland* **48**: 57.
Mentions that from about 3,900 to 3,200 years ago there was an increase in abundance of *Calluna vulgaris*.
- BERNARD, C. 1996.** *Flore des Causses*.
Distribution of *Erica cinerea*, *E. vagans*, *E. arborea*, *E. multiflora* and *Calluna* in the Aveyron, etc. [DMcC]
- BOND, W. J. & VAN WILGEN, B. W. 1996.** Effects of fire area, in *Fire and plants*. London, Chapman & Hall.
Calluna heathland in Scotland provides an interesting example of the importance of the 'burnt area'. [DMcC]

BONNIER, G. & DOUIN, R. 1990. *La grande flore ... la réédition moderne de la célèbre Flore complète, illustrée en couleur de France, Suisse et Belgique*. 4 vols. Paris, Editions Belin.

A lavish revision of Bonnier's flora that fulfils his wish that all his illustrations be brought together in order to complement his written catalogue of European plants. Ericaceae illustrations (plates 384-388) provide a useful comparison of European species; details of all species listed on pp 52-53. [RJC]

BRENNAN, R. 1996. Check-list of nursery catalogues from Great Britain in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. *Occasional papers, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin* 9.

Useful list of catalogues at Glasnevin, several from famous heather nurseries.

BREWIS, A., BOWMAN, P. & ROSE, F. 1996. *The flora of Hampshire*. Colchester, Harley Books.

Detailed account of the established flora of Hampshire (excluding the Isle of Wight) with brief systematic accounts of each species and distribution maps for the most important. Preliminary chapters on geology, climate, history of vegetation and habitats ensure a comprehensive understanding of the influences present in the county. There are also chapters on conservation, previous workers and one that compares the Hampshire flora with that of neighbouring counties in southern England. Ericaceae briefly dealt with on pp 139-141 with maps for *Calluna*, *Erica tetralix* and *E. cinerea*. [RJC]

BRICKELL, C. D. (editor-in-chief). 1996. *The Royal Horticultural Society A-Z encyclopedia of garden plants*. London, Doring Kindersley. £60.00.

'At last - the encyclopedia every gardener has been waiting for ...'. Is it? There are 15,000 plants and 6,000 photographs included, including a view of a heather garden (p. 35), and entries for *Andromeda* (3 photos, p. 112), *Bruckenthalia* (no illust., p. 193), *Calluna* (20 photos, pp. 209-210), *Daboecia* (3 photos, p. 337) and 4 pages on *Erica*. The treatment of the latter mingles Cape and European species (44 photos, pp. 406-409). Have you been waiting for this? If you are a very keen, all-round gardener, this is an excellent encyclopedia, with good colour illustrations. If you are only interest in heathers, this would be an expensive luxury. The two-volume boxed set is probably better than the very heavy single volume. To conclude, for its comprehensive coverage of hardy and tender exotics, this is probably unbeatable. [ECN]

COUGHLAN, A. P. 1996. The effect of fire on mycorrhiza incofolulum of *Calluna* heath. *Botanical Society of Scotland news* 67: 14-15.

May help to explain some species interaction on heathland systems [DMcC]

COWLING, R., RICHARDSON, D. & PATERSON-JONES, C. 1995. *Fynbos. South Africa's unique floral kingdom*. Vlaeberg, Fernwood Press.

Twenty-four *Erica* species mentioned and many of these illustrated. [DMcC]

DAVIS, P. 1996. The Backhouses and their scientific pursuits. *Occasional papers, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin* 8: 37-54.

D'ARCY, W. G. & KEARTING, R. C. 1996. *The anther: form, function and phylogeny*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

The first paper answers the question 'What do anthers and stamens do?', the remainder deal with their intricacies and evolution. A paper by the editors and S. L. Buchan on 'The calcium oxalate package, or so-called resorption tissue in some angiosperm anthers' is relevant as this occurs in most Ericaceae (cf Table 4 pp 172-173 & the cladogram Fig. 24). Other papers mention anther mechanism & adaptation, modes of presentation and pollen collection methods. [RJC]

- DOBBS, E. 1995.** *Successful shrubs*. Which Books.
Pp 44-45 *Calluna* photos labelled 'County Wicklow', 'Gold Haze', 'Peter Sparkes', 'Wickwar Flame'; p 78: *Daboecia* 'Bicolor' and 'William Buchanan' (with white flowers!); pp 89-90: *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White' (also gives 'Pink Ice' and 'Jack H. Brummage').
- DORAN, L. & DORAN, M. 1996.** Heathers – your secret gardener. *Start gardening* (May): 29.
A page recommending the Heather Hedgehog and seven cultivars. [DMcC]
- EDWARDS, R. 1996.** Heather honey. *Garden news* (3 December): 24
About Cape heaths, not honey!
- ELLISON, D. 1995.** *Cultivated plants of the world*. Brisbane, Flora Publ.
Daboecia 'Alba' with pink flowers! on p. 196; pp 221-223 *Erica arborea*, *E. carnea*, *E. sicula* and seventeen Cape heaths; no *Calluna*! [DMcC]
- FINLAY, E. N. 1996.** Heathering heights. *San Francisco chronicle* (9 October): 1-4.
Full colour of the Thompson's garden at Mendocino. [DMcC]
- HAYWARD, J. 1995.** *A new key to wild flowers*. Cambridge, University Press.
Revised edition. A user-friendly key intended to provide an easy route to naming British plants. No existing knowledge is expected and with practice this key can be mastered. Ericaceae dealt with on pp 146-147. [RJC]
- HENMAN, D.F. 1996.** The effect of burning regimes on heathland composition and diversity. *Botanical Society of Scotland news* **67**: 15-16.
- JAHN, R. & SCHÖNFELDER, P. 1995.** *Exkursionsflora für Kreta*. Stuttgart, Verlag Eugen Ulmer.
Compact flora of Crete in German. Ericaceae (pp. 220-221) are *Erica arborea* and *E. manipuliflora*, and *Arbutus andrachne* and *A. unedo*. The only book of its kind currently available (see also Alibertis, A. above)
- JONES, A. W. 1996.** Lime-tolerant heathers. *The garden* **121**: 24.
Mentions *Erica x williamsii* 'Ken Wilson' and 'Gold Button'.
- KELLY, J. 1996.** Winter heathers. Your garden. *Garden answers* (February): 39-42.
- KERLEY, S. J. & READ, D. J. 1995.** The biology of the Ericaceae, XIII. Chitin degradation by *Hymenoscyphus ericae* and transfer of chitin-nitrogen to the host plant. *New phytologist* **131**: 369-375.
- KERN, D. 1996.** Magic carpet ride. *House beautiful* (June).
More on the Thompson's garden at Mendocino. [DMcC]
- KING, P. (editor) 1996.** *The good gardens guide 1997*. (8th edition).
Essential guide for garden visiting in Great Britain and Ireland, with some gardens on continent; mentions heather gardens including RHS Wisley, Bell's Cherrybank Gardens and Harlow Car Botanical Gardens.
- KNIGHT, A. 1992.** Heathers as companion plants. *Journal of the American Rhododendron Society* **46** (3): 154-157.
Contains excellent photographs by Arthur Dome of his Seattle garden, and close-ups of *Calluna vulgaris* 'County Wicklow' and *Erica x darleyensis* 'Furzey'.
- LAAR, H. van de. 1995.** *Erica cinerea*. *Dendroflora* **32**: 58-81.
Trial report from Boskoop of 134 cultivars; judged 57 were worth keeping and the rest can be forgotten.
- LILAND, J. 1996.** Mine Erfaringer met Lynghagen. *Norsk Tidende* (January):30
An account by one of our members of Norwegian conditions with a photo labelled 'Brevik' [DMcC]

- MABEY, R. 1996.** *Flora Britannica – the definitive new guide to wild flowers, plants and trees*. London, Sinclair-Stevenson.
An account of the role of wild plants, both native and naturalised, on social life, the arts, customs and the British landscape. A cultural flora rather than a botanical one, it retells lore and uses of *Calluna*; there is little on *Erica*. [DMcC & RJC]
- NELSON, E. C. 1995.** Scottish botanical history preserved in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. *The Scottish naturalist* **107**: 137-162.
Includes record of an herbarium specimen of *Trientalis europaea* (Chickweed wintergreen) gathered in August 1831 from the 'roof of a cottage thatched with heather, Braemar'. Heather was used to thatch houses in Scotland and Ireland (cf. p. 57, this *Yearbook*!)
- NELSON, E.C. 1996.** Hybrids in St Dabeoc's heaths; some nomenclatural adjustments. *The new plantsman* **3**: 84-85.
Technical, with photograph of *D. azorica* in the wild.
- OLIVER, E. G. H. 1996.** A new species of *Erica* from the western Cape. *Bothalia* **25**: 242-244.
E. karooica sp. nov.; maps & morphology of a widespread wind-pollinated heather.
- OLIVER, E. G. H. 1996.** Studies in the Ericoideae (Ericaceae). XVIII. Two new species of *Erica* from the southern part of South Africa. *Feddes repertorium* **106** (5-8): 347-352.
E. flexistyla (Elim area) and *E. juniperina* (Robinson Pass, Outeniqua Mountains).
- OMAR, T. D. 1994.** *The woody plant collection in the Washington Park Arboretum*. Seattle, University of Washington.
Lists 21 cultivars of *Erica*, pp 42-43. [RJC]
- PALMER, M. A. & BRALTA, J. H. (editors) 1995.** *A sample survey of the flora of Britain and Ireland. The B.S.B.I. Monitoring scheme 1987-88*. No. 8. Peterborough, JNCC.
Maps of *Erica erigena*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tetralix* p. 122.
- PETERSON, C. 1996.** Heaths and heathers: soft fire of the wastelands. *New York times* (10 November).
- PREISSE, V. & PREISSE, H. G. 1993.** The status of *Erica carnea*, *E. cinerea*, *E. tetralix* and *E. vagans* in Czechoslovakia, Germany & Switzerland. *Schlütese Verlag* 1993:37-40
Erica carnea now extinct in Slovenia. [DMcC]
- RICH, T. G. C. et alii. 1996.** *Flora of Ashdown forest*.
Excellent commentaries on *Calluna*, *Erica tetralix* and *E. cinerea* (pp. 80-81).
- ROSE, R. J., BANNISTER, P. & CHAPMAN, S. B. 1996.** Biological flora of the British Isles: *Erica ciliaris* L. *Journal of ecology* **84**: 617-628.
A valuable account; full details of habitats, associated communities, structure, phenology, floral characters, distribution and geological history. [DMcC & RJC]
- SMITH, M. 1996.** Endangered habitats. Greenham Common is being transformed into a flower-rich heathland. *The Independent weekend* (Saturday 16 March): 15.
Conservation of lowland heath as a wildlife sanctuary, using Greenham Common as an example of recent progress in implementing the government's Biodiversity Action Plan. It emphasizes that colonising pines, birch, rhododendron and bracken have to be dealt with to prevent encroachment and natural succession. [RJC]
- THOMPSON, B. H. 1996.** Lismore flora – flowering plants and ferns. *Glasgow naturalist* **23**: 14-40.
Detailed list of plants on the island of Lismore, Argyllshire; Ericaceae p. 26: *Calluna vulgaris* common but rarely well grown owing to heavy grazing; *Erica tetralix* rare, restricted to surviving wetter habitats; *E. cinerea* locally frequent. [RJC]

TOBIN, B. & TAYLOR, B. 1996. Golf and wildlife. *British wildlife* **7**: 137-146.

The effects and value of golf courses on wildlife and its conservation; photograph (p. 144) illustrates the effective use of heather for the facing bunkers. [RJC]

TOMOLONIS, A. 1996. Heathers brighten green thumb's winter of discontent. *Boston Sunday herald* (17 November).

TREHANE, P. (editor) et alii. 1995. *International code of nomenclature for cultivated plants* – 1995. Wimborne, Quarterjack.

The code that governs the names of garden plants; see A. W. Jones in *Bulletin of the Heather Society* **5**(7): 8-10 (Spring 1996). Attention may also be drawn to the invaluable appendixes, especially XI (Checklists of ornamental cultivars), with entries for *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica*.

TRUEMAN, I., MORTON, A. & WAINWRIGHT, M. (editors) 1995. *The flora of Montgomeryshire*. The Montgomeryshire Field Society & The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust.

Montgomeryshire spans mid-Wales from the English border to the Dovey Estuary including part of the Severn Valley and the hills of Plynlimmon and the Berwyn. Part 1 includes a history of botanical recording, geology, climate, soils and geography. Part 2 has distribution maps for species, including *Erica cinerea*, *E. scoparia* subsp. *maderensis*, *E. tetralix*, *Calluna* and *Andromeda polifolia*. [RJC]

WERNER, P. 1994. *Connaitre. La nature en Valais. La Flore*. Martigny, Editions Pilkket.

Brief references to *Erica herbacea* (bruyere incarnata), *Calluna* and *Andromeda* in the useful descriptions of ecological habitats e.g. Pinèdes (la Pinèda à bruyere). Essentially a guide to the more colourful flowers found in the Valais. A well-produced guide, if your French is good. [RJC]

WIGGERS, R. 1994. *The plant explorer's guide to New England*. Mountain Press Publishing Co.

Covers the rich legacy of botany, ecology and horticulture with a mixture of Thoreauian reflection and Yankee humour; outlines of 54 driving and walking tours to discover the landscape between Maine and Connecticut. Various references to heaths & 'ericads' in gardens and arboreta as well as natural vegetation; comments that the requirements of heather cause American gardeners to have "conniption fits". [RJC]

WILSON, D. (1996). Restoration of a degraded moorland in the Peak District. *Biological journal of the Linnean Society* **56** (suppl.): 221-223.

When the National Trust acquired land on Kinder Scout no heather was visible, now its 300 hectares are dominated by it. [DMcC]

WROBEL, M. & CREBER, G. 1996. *Elsevier's dictionary of plant names in Latin, English, French, German and Italian*. Amsterdam, Elsevier Science BV.

At £175 this can only be a book that you refer to in your local library when you need to check a colloquial name. It contains the common names of 17 species of *Erica* with their language equivalents (pp 223-224). There are 15 different names under *E. carnea*; *E. tetralix* has 14 but *E. bauera*, *E. mackaiana* and *E. vestita* only have one each. I like the sound of 'Grünblutige Heide' & 'Scopa cespugliosa' whilst the simple description of 'Bruyère à quatre angles' for *E. tetralix* is easily understood. Not the right size nor cost to pack for your holiday. [RJC]

CULTIVAR AND SPECIES NOTES

CULTIVARS REGISTERED TO 31 DECEMBER 1996

140. *Erica nana* x *patersonia* 'Gengold'

Registered 12 January 1996: Deon Kotze on behalf of the National Botanical Institute, Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, Claremont, South Africa.

Open, erect habit, 10cm tall, 15cm wide; stems mid-green, glabrous; foliage light green in spring and summer, mid-green in autumn and winter; leaves linear with aristate tips, 8mm long, 2mm wide, glabrous; inflorescence a terminal cluster, about 15mm long; pedicel light green, glabrous, 2mm long, with 5 bracts at base; sepals light green, lanceolate, tips aristate, downy, 3mm long, 2mm wide; corolla yellow, tubular, about 15mm long, 5mm wide; anthers included, light green, linear, with divided lobes, without appendages; blooming period in South Africa from August to October. Not frost hardy but suitable for pot-culture.

Raised at Harold Porter Botanic Garden, Betty's Bay, South Africa by A. van der Zeyde in 1988. Exhibited in September 1995 at National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland, by Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden.

141. *Erica carnea* 'Diana Young'

Registered 15 April 1996: R. S. Young, Spindleberry, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NS, England.

Compact, spreading habit, 15cm tall, 60cm wide; foliage dark green (RHS CC 139A); leaves 7-9.5mm long; racemes dense, cylindrical, to 7cm long; pedicels to 4mm long, green with a red tinge; flowers single; sepals lanceolate, heliotrope (H12, RHS CC 72C); corolla ovate, shallowly lobed, 5.5-6.5mm long, opening almost white and darkening to heliotrope (H12, RHS CC 72C) from mid-February to mid-April.

Found as a chance seedling in the garden at Spindleberry, Church Road, Mersham by Mr Young during the winter of 1992-1993. Named after his wife.

142. *Erica manipuliflora* 'Olivia Hall'

Registered 10 October 1996: Mrs Olivia M. E. Hall, Domus, The George Yard, Alresford, Hampshire, England.

Erect habit, up to 1m tall; foliage mid-green (RHS CC 137B); flowers in long racemes, single; sepals light green; corolla broad-campanulate, white in warm climates and indoors, otherwise pale lilac (H4, RHS CC 69D); anthers exerted, dark beetroot (H9); August to October.

Collected at Lara Bay, Antalya, Turkey, 1 October 1978.

143. *Erica erigena* 'Thing Nee'

Registered 5 December 1996: B. M. Sellers, 8 Croft Road, Norbury, London SW163NF, England.

Erect habit, 80cm tall, 80cm wide after 12 years; mature foliage mid-green throughout the year, young foliage at shoot tips yellow in spring and summer, turning light green in autumn and mid-green in winter; racemes 2–3cm long; flowers single; sepals lanceolate, lilac (H4); corolla urceolate, pink (H8); anthers semi-exserted, purple; February to May.

Raised in 1984 at Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, by Mr Sellers, a seedling of *E. erigena* 'Golden Lady'.

CULTIVAR GROUP NAME

***Calluna vulgaris* St Kilda Group**

The assemblage of plants collected by R. J. Brien on St Kilda in 1966 and 1967.

Ref.: **Brien, R. J., 1974.** St Kilda heathers. *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **2** (4): 4–7.

CULTIVAR NAMES NEW TO THE REGISTRAR, 1996

Some of the names listed below have been formally published elsewhere in accordance with the *International code of nomenclature for cultivated plants* 1995. References to those publications are cited. Other names are published here for the first time.

Some names which, despite not having been published as required by the *ICNCP*, are in circulation and are included here as names which are not established. Usually I have insufficient information on these plants to provide the necessary description.

ACCEPTED NAMES

Calluna vulgaris

'Alicia'

Raised by Kurt Kramer by 1994, at Edewecht-Süddorf, Germany; plant breeder's rights applied for in Germany, 14 April 1994.

Ref.: *The garden* **121**: 680 (1996) (illustration).

Compact, upright habit, 20–30cm tall; flowers white; bud-bloomer.

'Antrujo Gold'

Sport on 'Boskoop' at Suerendonk, found by A. G. Slegers in 1995. The name is a combination of Anja, Truus and Johan.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **103**: 11 (1996).

Broad, upright habit, 40cm tall, 40cm wide; foliage bright yellow throughout the year; flower single, white, July to August (to October).

'Bonsai'

Sport on 'Findling' found on G. van Hoef's nursery, Barneveld, Holland by his daughter Ria in 1988.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **99**: 7 (1995).

Low, compact habit, irregular with short branches, 15–20cm tall and wide; foliage dark green with slight purplish tinge in winter; no flowers observed.

'Elaine'

Introduced by Upminster Lodge Nurseries, Essex, England.

Ref.: *Upminster Lodge Nurseries' catalogue* **1996**: 8 [January].

30cm tall, 40cm wide; foliage bright green, tips yellow in spring; flowers single, white, August to October.

'Jos' Whitie'

Seedling found in his garden at Kerkrade, Holland, by Jos G. Flecken in 1991.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **99**: 8 (1995).

Dwarf habit with upright branches, 15cm tall and wide after 3 years; foliage dark green with light green tips in spring; flowers single, white, August- September.

'Julie Gill'

Sport on 'Beoley Silver'.

Ref.: *Glynwern Heather Nurseries catalogue* **1995**: 1.

40 cm tall; flowers white during August and September.

'Marco'

Plant Breeders' Rights granted to Albert Bardt u. Söhne, Kirchlinteln, Germany, 18 February 1991.

'Martine Langenberg'

Seedling found at Boskoop, Holland by G. K. Langenberg before 1990. Named after his daughter.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **101**: 30 (1996).

Broad, upright habit, to 40cm tall; foliage green with orange-red tips in spring; flowers single, lilac-pink, August-September.

'Matita'

Seedling collected from a gravel pit near Borås, south-western Sweden by the late Mats Johansson in 1985.

Ref.: *Trädgårdsamatören* **58** (1): 11 (1995).

Very vigorous; foliage, brown-green, feathery; does not produce flowers.

'Sophia'

Sport found on 'Elsie Purnell' on his nursery at Hazerswoude, Holland by J. D. W. E. van der Lip about 1993 and named after his wife. Award of Merit from the Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society in 1995.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **99**: 8 (1995).

Broad, upright habit, 45cm tall, 60cm wide; foliage greyish-green; flowers with deep red sepals, corolla fully double, 5–7mm in diameter, soft silvery pink, August to October.

‘Van Beek’

Sport on ‘Finale’ found by A. van Beek, Boomkwekerij “Erica” te Leonhout, Belgium.
 Ref.: *Ericultura* **103**: 11 (1996).

Broad, upright, 40cm tall, 50cm wide; foliage greenish-yellow with yellow new growth, later in the year yellow with a tinge of red; flowers single, magenta (H14), late August to early September.

Erica carnea

‘Foxhollow Pink’ [new name, established here]

Sport on ‘Foxhollow’ found at Pépinières Renault, Gorron, Mayenne, France, by 1995

Foliage green; ‘similar to ‘Pink Spangles’.’

Erica manipuliiflora

‘Cascades’ [new name, established here]

Collected in Dalmatia by A. W. Jones in October 1988. Introduced by Otters’ Court Heathers before 1994 as ‘Waterfall’, but that epithet is already used within *Calluna vulgaris*; and thus under ICNCP Art. 6.1 cannot be used a second time within this demonination class.

Ref.: *The garden* **121**: 789 (1996) (illustration)

Spreading habit, to 30cm tall, to 60cm across; bark on mature stems peeling grey to smooth brown; foliage mid-green; flowers on long trailing stems; corolla lilac (H4; RHS CC 75D), sepals cream flushed pink, stamens dark brown, September to November.

Erica vagans

‘Cornish Gold’

Sport on ‘Cornish Cream’ at Callender Propagators, Scotland by 1995.

Ref.: *Yb Heather Soc.* **1997**: 73 (this volume).

***Erica* hybrid (Cape heath)**

‘Cinderella’

Plant of uncertain parentage, derived from Cape species.

Introduced by G. Leurs, Germany, by 1994; granted plant breeder’s rights, 1 July 1994. Notwithstanding the duplicated use of this epithet (cf *Daboecia cantabrica* ‘Cinderella’) it is accepted under ICNCP Art 22.2.

REJECTED NAMES

Calluna vulgaris

‘Martine’

Name invalidly published in *Ericultura* **99**: 8 (December 1995), contrary to *ICNCP* Art. 17.12 – see *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Martine Langenberg’ above.

‘Yellow Lawn’

Synonym of *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Yellow Globe’.

Erica carnea

‘Snow Storm’

Translation of ‘Schneesturm’, contrary to *ICNCP* Art. 28.1.

Erica cinerea

‘Eline’

Rejected, being a parahomonym of *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Elaine’, contrary to *ICNCP* Art. 17.12.

Found at Boskoop by D. Boer jr in 1993, and named after D. Boer’s 3-year old daughter. This cultivar will be introduced commercially in 1998.

Ref.: *Ericultura* **103**: 11-12 (1996).

Broadly upright, compact habit, 25(–30)cm tall; foliage dark green; flowers single, dark red, June to August.

‘Natacha’

Rejected, being a parahomonym of *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Natasja’, contrary to *ICNCP* Art. 17.12. Found by Pépinières Renault, Gorron, Mayenne, France, in 1986. No valid publication located; not established.

Erica x darleyensis

‘Alba Mollis’

In use at Heritage House Nursery, and elsewhere in California, USA, in 1996. The plants bearing this name were probably ‘Ada S. Collings’.

OTHER NAMES, INCLUDING THOSE NOT ESTABLISHED

Calluna vulgaris

‘Beoly Crimson’

An orthographic error for ‘Beoley Crimson’; at Heritage House Nursery, California, USA, in 1996.

‘Babette’

Name used by Kurt Kramer, 1996; submitted for Plant Breeders’ Rights under the trade designation ‘Hellrosa Melanie’, 17 October 1994.

‘Backabo’

Listed by Arthur Persson, Tostarp, Sweden by 1995.

- 'Kenneth' At Clarke & Edith Davis's garden in California, USA, about 1991.
- 'Heidekönigin' Sport on 'Elsie Purnell', submitted for Plant Breeders' Rights by J. Brandt, Prisdorf, Germany, on 31 August 1994; introduced by J. Brandt in 1996.
- 'Lightness' With J. Letellier, Saint-Ouen-de-Thouberville, France, by 1996.
- 'Scarlet Alba' Probably an orthographic error for 'Serlei Alba' in *Pépinières Dauguet, Larchamp, France catalogue 1996*: 5.
- 'Simone' Plant Breeders' Rights applied for by Johnnes Schaaf, Geldern-Veert, Germany, 10 November 1993. Introduced by Johnnes Schaaf 1996.
- 'Upright Mrs Ronald Gray' Seedling under 'Mrs Ronald Gray' in Col. Thomson's garden at Manchester, California, USA, before 1990.

Daboecia cantabrica

- 'Hookstone Pink' Listed in *The RHS plant finder 1996/7*: 182

Erica carnea

- 'Bright Jewel' Seedling found in Golden, British Columbia, Canada; thought to come from 'Springwood White'. Introduced by Wilson's Nursery, British Columbia, by 1966. Ref.: *Heather notes* **6**(1): 1 (1996) – name only.
- 'Springflood' Listed in *Varlynnng Bergens tidende*, 23 April 1993.
- 'Startler Gold' Plant at Wisley Plant Centre, July 1996

Erica cinerea

- 'Hubertal' Listed by Pépinières Renault, Gorron, Mayenne, France, by 1996.

Erica lusitanica

- 'Sheffield Park' Plant at Wisley Plant Centre, 26 June 1996.

***Erica hybrid* (Cape heath)**

- 'Obsession' Seedling of unknown parentage found at Nurserymans Exchange, Half Moon Bay, California, USA, by 1996.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Bruckenthalia spiculifolia f. *albiflora* – see *Erica spiculifolia* f. *albiflora*

Calluna vulgaris

‘Alicia’

Raised by Kurt Kramer in Germany.

Ref: *The garden* **121**: 680

Bud-blooming cultivar; upright spreading habit, more compact and lower in stature than ‘Melanie’; buds white, flowering August to December.

‘Amethyst’

Raised by Kurt Kramer, Edeweicht-Süddorf, Germany in 1992; Plant Breeders’ Rights granted 31 March 1995.

Ref: *Information über neue Heidesorten* (August 1995)

Bud-blooming cultivar; erect and broad habit; purple buds [H13 crimson], flowering August to January.

‘Breivik’

Collected north-west of Bergen, Norway, by Anna Karin Breivik, c. 1990.

Ref: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **4** (1): 43

Very hardy; broad habit, dense dark green foliage, flowers pink.

‘Florrie Spicer’

Raised by Mrs W. E. S. Bamford of Haythorne Nursery, Verwood, Dorset; registered cultivar no. **131**

Ref: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1996**: 60.

Prostrate; foliage yellow-green turning more yellow in Autumn; flowers white.

‘Fortyniner Gold’

A sport on ‘Long White’ found by Col. Jim Thompson; introduced by Heather Heaven, USA; registered cultivar no. **139**, published as *Calluna vulgaris* ‘Forty-niner Gold’ but orthography corrected here.

Ref: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1996**: 61.

Tall, upright habit; foliage lime-green, the shoots tipped with gold; flowers white in very long racemes.

‘Rachel Patricia’ [new name]

Seedling, raised by Stan Crabtree, Eversley Nursery, Hesketh Bank, near Preston, Lancashire; named after his grand-daughter.

Low, compact habit; foliage light green, with pink tips in spring lasting well into the summer; flowers few, mauve.

Calluna vulgaris (cont'd)

'Stag's Horn'

Collected by W. S. Dobson, Edinburgh, c. 1970.

Ref: **McClintock, D. in Yates, G. 1978.** *Pocket guide to heather gardening*. 4th ed. p. 33 [name only].

Prostrate with long curling branches which rise at the tips; foliage grey; flowers lavender.

Daboecia x scotica

'Pink Lantern'

Chance seedling found c 1990 by John Proudfoot of Almondell Nursery, Methven, Perthshire, Scotland, c. 1990.

Ref: **[delete if not available]**

Low growing, with broad habit; foliage bright green; flowers pink.

Erica carnea

'Branton Bamford'

A sport on 'Pink Cloud', in 1992; propagated and introduced by Mrs W. E. S. Bamford of Haythorne Nursery, Verwood, Dorset; registered cultivar no. **135**

Ref: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1996**: 60.

Habit open with long shoots, foliage yellow-green in summer, turning more yellow-bronze in winter; more vigous than 'Ann Sparkes'

Erica spiculifolia f. *albiflora*

I obtained plants from G. van Hoef, and when grown beside 'Balkan Rose' the contrast of the white and the pink flowers is nice.

Refs: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1997**: 37 (this issue).

Broad spreading habit, drak green foliage, shoots with light green tips; flowers white.

Erica tetralix

'Helen Nicol'

A seedling found in July 1984 by Robert Nicol at Mark Hill, Glenapp, Ballantrae, Ayrshire, Scotland; registered cultivar no. **138**.

Ref: *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **1996**: 61.

Habit broad; flowers white on tips of leading shoots; a clean plant with few lateral shoots.

Erica vagans

'Cornish Gold' [new name]

A sport on 'Cornish Cream' found by Mr Watson of Callender Propagators, Scotland, and named and introduced by him.

Gold foliage in summer, turning lime-green; habit compact; flowers off-white; blooms from August to November.

Erica x williamsii

'Cow-y-Jack'

Clone 10, grown in University Botanic Gardens, Cambridge¹; found at Cow-y-jack, near Coverack, Cornwall, by Andrew Byfield, 18 August 1984; propagated and introduced by Denbeigh Heather Nurseries.

Refs: **Turpin, P. G. 1985.** Two new plants of *E. x williamsii* found at The Lizard. *Yearbook of the Heather Society* **3** (3): 66 [history only]; *The RHS plant finder 1996/97*, 228 [name only]; *Uppminster Lodge Nurseries catalogue 1996*: 24 [January].

Low, compact habit; dark green foliage; shoots tips yellow; flowers pink.

compiled by J. PLATT

Fern Bank, 176 Southport Road, Ulnes-Walton PR5 3LN, Lancashire

¹ In a letter to David McClintock dated 24 January 1994, Dr D. E. Coombe commented that this clone, propagated from a plant found on gabbro rock near Coverack, as grown at Cambridge was the one that had 'the most brilliant gold young shoots, and ... the erect habit and robust constitution of *E. vagans*.'

NEW SPECIES, HYBRIDS & COMBINATIONS

Daboecia

D. cantabrica nothosubsp. *scotica* (D. C. McClintock) E. C. Nelson, *The new plantsman* **3** (2) (1996): 85 **comb. nov.** (= *Daboecia x scotica*).

D. cantabrica nothosubsp. *scotica* f. *eburnea* E. C. Nelson **nom. nov.** (= *D. x scotica* f. *albiflora* D. C. McClintock; this name cannot be used when *Daboecia* is considered to be monospecific.)

Erica

E. flexistyla E. G. H. Oliver, *Feddes repertorium* **106**: 347-352, **sp. nov.**

E. juniperina E. G. H. Oliver, *Feddes repertorium* **106**: 347-352, **sp. nov.**

E. karooica E. G. H. Oliver, *Bothalia* **25**: 242-244, **sp. nov.**

E. kogelbergensis E. G. H. Oliver, *Yearbook of the Heather Society* 1996:

1-5, **stat. & nom. nov.** (= *E. serratifolia* Andrews var. *subnuda* H. Bolus)

E. x oldenbergensis D. C. McClintock, *Deutsche Baumschule* **5**: 198, **hyb. nov.** (= *E. arborea* L. x *E. carnea* L.)

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31 October 1997**

YEARBOOK OF THE HEATHER SOCIETY

1997

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